

Erika A. Garcia

From: Ross Lockridge <murlock@raintreecounty.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 2:44 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Attachments: Art XI Rock compliance.pdf

Dear Mr. Larrañaga,

On January 7, I contacted the Caja Del Rio Quarry manager for Delhur, Joe Kirmer. He said that the quarry has 3 1/2 million cubic yards of basalt, and that it was a 10 year supply. They will custom crush to meet DOT standards and they provide to everyone private and governmental. They use piped non-potable water. They send trucks all over... Rio Rancho etc.

This demonstrates that supplies are plentiful and another basalt mine at La Bajada Mesa is not needed.

Attached are additional comments relating to Article XI, 1.2 Location Standards for Creation of New Mining Zones.

Sincerely,

Ann Murray
POB 22
Cerrillos, NM 87010

Jose Larranaga

From: Roger Taylor <clearskynm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 12:29 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

The Santa Fe Basin Water Association would like to go on record as strongly protesting this application.

We have serious concerns about the significant water use over the 25 year lease period that will have to be hauled to the mesa for this proposed operation. The lack of water on the mesa means it will have to be bulk-hauled in through a County supply contract, and given the drought issues this County is facing we believe this is a questionable use of water needed by County residents.

In addition it would seem that there is little need for additional gravel operations in the County, and one must question the use of extending water to an area in which it does not exist to support a questionable business enterprise.

Best Regards

Roger Taylor, President
Santa Fe Basin Water Association
505-466-3469
clearskynm@gmail.com

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 12:47 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: FW: Letter of Record / re. Mining Application Buena Vista, LLC - Rockology / re. La Bajada Mesa

From: Delise9999 [<mailto:delise9999@aol.com>]
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2014 12:30 PM
To: Penny Ellis-Green
Subject: Letter of Record / re. Mining Application Buena Vista, LLC - Rockology / re. La Bajada Mesa

Dear Penny:

There is a broad coalition of residents, institutions, organizations and businesses in Santa Fe County that support the preservation and protection of La Bajada Mesa and the escarpment for its renowned cultural, historical, and environmental attributes.

We do not support mining in this location for the following reasons:

- 1.) Mining in this site would result in the degradation of NM cultural landscape that has been historically, culturally and environmentally significant to New Mexico for hundred of years.
- 2.) Mining the Mesa would ruin the geological integrity — the grandeur of this oceanic Gateway along I-25 into Santa Fe & Waldo Canyon Road - the road into the Galisteo basin park lands, a sustainable and growing economic resource. The Mesa needs to be preserved as open space for the welfare of the county, city, state, and thus the nation.
- 3.) There is no need for another basalt gravel mine in the County or another gravel mining operation off of I-25 as there are several existing gravel mines within reasonable proximity that can provide these materials.
- 4.) The current owners have no protected rights to demand a rezoning as they purchased the property with the current agricultural/residential zoning in place. The County has no obligation to enhance the economic (sold by the cubic yard) value of the property to the detriment of the County and State as a whole.

We are respectfully requesting that the application to mine La Bajada Mesa by Buena Vista / Rockology LLC be declined. Thank you.

With regard,

Dianne Elise Strauss

*President, Portfolio Group
Santa Fe, NM*

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 12:52 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: FW: La Bajada Mesa mining application

From: Ryan Toups [<mailto:findingrien@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 10:49 PM
To: Penny Ellis-Green
Subject: La Bajada Mesa mining application

To whom it may concern-

I am a resident of La Cienega who supports the protection/preservation of La Bajada Mesa for its known historical and obvious environmental attributes. I do not support mining this location for many reasons:

-Mining this site would clearly degrade/ruin this spectacular and significant geological landscape and viewshed, diminishing the opportunity to protect The Gateway. I suspect you are aware of the longrunning efforts and large coalition of support to preserve it as open space for the welfare of the entire county and state?

-It is my understanding that there are already existing gravel mines nearby to provide these materials, and therefore no justifiable need to even debate this request currently.

-Given the changes we have been witnessing with the climate, and specifically regarding drought being a regular reality now here, we need to be acting from the wise perspective of long term sustainability.

-And, as an artist (photography, painting & pottery), I attest to the mesa's profound & inspirational grandeur! Once altered, forever altered...

I respectfully ask that this application to mine La Bajada Mesa, or any other following, be declined.

Thank you. Sincerely-

Ryan Toups
36 Raven Ravine
La Cienega, NM 87507

Jose Larranaga

From: Manuel Lopez <mlopez32908@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 10:42 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: re:CDRC case buena vista estates & rockology limited llc

Mr. Larranaga,

I want you to know that I am very much against this project....we have scarce water resources as it is and tearing up our natural landscape would be disastrous to our environment as well as the cultural and historical significance.

Destroying our beautiful landscape and scarring our history and culture for a GRAVEL PIT is absolute nonsense.

Respectfully submitted,
Manuel Lopez

Pamela Bennett-Cumming
286 Camino Cerro Chato,
Cerrillos NM 87010

January 31, 2014

Jose Larrañaga, Case Manager
Building and Development Services
Santa Fe County
PO Box 276
Santa Fe NM 87504

Subject: CDRC Case: Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga,

I am writing to state my opposition to the Buena Vista Estates/Rockology proposal to convert a very rural and undisturbed area of Santa Fe County - to a hard rock strip mine, apparently using the County's own water right. As a County resident landowner and voter, I request that my government deeply consider the irreversible consequences of actions on this case.

Property values: I chose my land in rural Santa Fe County because of its beauty, quiet, and for the scenic vistas which surround it. The land was more expensive (and is more valuable) than for example – a home within sight and sound of a hard rock strip mine's noise and 24-hour lights, or next to an industrial area. Yet if the County rezones part of La Bajada Mesa for the benefit of this mining application, that is exactly what I will have to live with. And the value of my land and many others will plummet accordingly.

Zoning change: The La Bajada Mesa's sweeping expanse of open, natural landscape is a scenic gateway to the more developed Santa Fe area. Residents and the many tourists who visit – value this natural beauty. Current zoning provides for sparse development and rural uses. I understand that the **Land Development Code's Article XI Section 1.4** says that a proposal for a strip mine requires the creation of a Mining Zone. Although the applicants indicate that mining is a common use close by the proposal – I don't see any mines on La Bajada Mesa. I hope the County does not feel it is under obligation to alter the zoning simply because a private company from another area wishes to profit from it. I am concerned the rezone would open the door to industry, since **Special Uses (Section 1.1.1)** states "Industrial, manufacturing and related office uses not related to mining uses..." would be allowed. So at the stroke of a pen – pristine landscape vistas become a new industrial area with no relationship to surrounding land use, and no infrastructure.

Water: I hear the issue of mining water rights for the project is currently pending with the State Engineer's office. **Article XI Section 1.7** states "the application shall submit evidence that the applicant has obtained an adequate water supply as evidenced by appropriate permits issued by the state engineer's office." Instead of meeting the County's requirement, the proposal wants to use more than 2 acre feet per year of the County's own water right for the mining - using potable water from the Highway 14 County water station. The County utility department says it has no policy about this, but I would ask my government decision-makers to consider that likewise there doesn't appear to be a policy which directly permits such a precedent-setting water commitment to a single mining user for 25 years. In this time of drought, please consider the potential conflict of interest if the County's own potable water being supplied for a consumptive use¹, in a project which may not meet its own regulations and requires a rezone to even be allowed.

¹ Consumptive use: when water is removed from available supplies without return to a water resource system. NB13 - 838

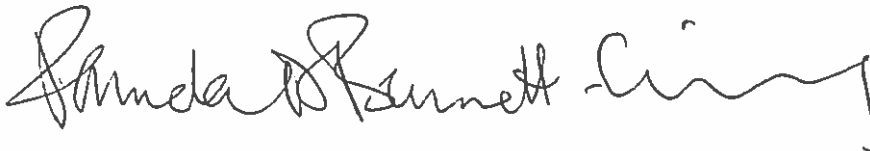
Noise pollution: The blasting, grinding, crushing, earth moving and heavy equipment noises will affect the quality of life for those of us in this very quiet rural community. Sound travels for so many miles that on occasion a heavy vehicle can be heard on I-25, more than 10 miles away. The mine would be closer and the daily noise constant. Regular explosions would be part of our lives!

Dust pollution: Surface mining equals dust. Since I live in an area where winds can regularly reach 25 mph, with gusts to 50 mph, acres of open mine and overburden would translate to an unlivable situation for all those downwind of the mine. Since winds can come from any direction around here, downwind will regularly include Santa Fe as well.

Light pollution: The current natural undeveloped nature of the La Bajada Mesa is evidenced by the fact that we see **no permanent lights out there** in our view of the mesa. This proposal would have industrial level lighting polluting the rural landscape. The mine proposes 24 hour lighting on 20ft poles "for security."

Finally, as the County's decision-makers evaluate the merits of this proposed strip mine, I ask that you thoughtfully weigh whether the individual profits of a single project merit irreversibly altering the landscape and quality of life for our community, and its many visitors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela D Bennett-Cumming". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Pamela D Bennett-Cumming

NBB- 839

January 31, 2014

Russell J. Bennett-Cumming
286 Camino Cerro Chato
Cerrillos, NM 87010

José Larrañaga, Case Mgr.
Building and Development Services
Santa Fe County
PO Box 276
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Mr. Larrañaga,

Concerning the proposed La Bajada Mesa gravel strip mine project, I would like to formally lodge my opposition.

I am a property owner/resident in the county and have outstanding views of our marvelous landscape. Unfortunately, if a gravel strip mine mars my vista, my property value will plummet, hence my taxes will be reduced along with hundreds of other property owners who share this pristine view.

Additionally, we will have to endure:

1. noise pollution from blasting
2. light pollution from powerful lights that can be seen for many miles
3. increased dust pollution from heavy equipment, crushing and trucking...fortunately, due to prevailing winds, I will not be subject to as much of that as Santa Fe.
4. the affront of a non-land owner business that will affect so many people, which claims it will employ up to only seven (7) workers, provided it is able to compete with other established like operations in the area
5. allowing consumptive use of diminishing potable public water for industrial dust control by a venture that has no water right as per mining regulations, when the water was originally intended for residents along Highway 14 who have little or no water on their properties

The number of affected residents is large. The potential of a business that will be of value to our community is minimal. We must instead encourage businesses that will be an asset to our community, not a detriment. In addition, if the commissioners nod approval through a zoning change to this insensitive proposal, it will open the floodgates for other non-mining related industries to establish and aid in the desecration of our home. Our home is a very special, uniquely beautiful place; let's keep it that way.

Sincerely,


Russell J. Bennett-Cumming

NBB-840

Jose Larranaga

From: Douglas Conwell <earthwalks1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:37 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada Mining proposal

Dear Mr. Larranaga,

I have lived in Santa Fe for 34 years and love our land and community. One of the reasons we love living here is the beauty of the land. La Bajada mesa is a dramatic and beautiful example of that. It is not only a place of beauty but carries cultural and historical significance and is a gateway to the area from the south. To destroy this heritage for a huge gravel pit mine would be to deny generations to come the importance of this land. Please deny the application for the basalt mine.

Thank you,

Douglas Conwell

February 5, 2014

29 Rancho Alegre Road
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Mr. Jose Larrañaga
Case Manager, Santa Fe County
PO Box 276
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Re: CDRC Case Buena Visa Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga:

I am calling on Santa Fe's elected representatives and agencies to deny the permit of Buena Vista Estates/Rockology LLC to strip mine La Bajada Mesa.

The site is poorly chosen. It will cause a visual blight on an iconic and historical area and create wind-borne, light, and noise pollution in a pristine area of the county. Country roads, not built to accommodate high volume industrial traffic, will be impacted by trucks hauling water or gravel. In addition, the gravel that will be produced is not needed. Other existing mines in the county are able to meet existing and increased demand for this grade of gravel and are far better sited.

Most unconscionable in this time of increasing drought and diminishing water reserves, will be the use of an estimated one million gallons of water yearly from county wells for dust control for the estimated 25 year life of the mine. Indeed, controlling dust during the mining operation and for the exposed stockpiles of rock and dirt is problematic at best, given the endemic high winds of this area.

While Santa Fe County has a past history of mining, the area has become a cultural mecca, treasured by those born here as well as transplants, and attracting visitors from around the world for its beauty, art and history. This 'new' reality brings significant income to the county – far more than the few jobs and tax dollars the strip mine will produce – and will be threatened by the creation of a polluted blight.

This project threatens the quality of life of its citizens and falls far outside the type of sustainable growth that Santa Fe County claims to value. The CDRC and the County Commissioners need to vote to protect this legacy for its citizens and deny Rockology the opportunity to reduce part of La Bajada mesa to a pile of rubble.

Sincerely,

Barbara King

NBB-842

Jose Larranaga

From: Clan Gilman <clangilman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:48 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: We oppose La Bajada Strip Mine

To:
Jose Larrañaga

We are residents of Santa Fe County and write to express our concern of the proposed La Bajada Strip Mine.

We do not approve this mine due to the impact it will make on our land and environment.

Please mark two citizens as AGAINST this proposed project.

Thank you,
Henry & Alyson Gilman
PO Box 261
Cerrillos NM
505-424-9308

Jose Larranaga

From: Hill Top Productions <bill@filmprojection.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:00 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada

Sir,

I have been informed that Santa Fe County staff is recommending approval to the recent application for mining La Bajada Mesa.

This is such a bad decision in so many ways, including the use of our limited water supplies and degradation of our environment.

La Bajada should be a National Monument, not a gravel pit. The aesthetic entrance to Santa Fe and Rio Arriba will be irreparably ruined.

The local people do not want this.

Please rethink your position as a representative of the people of Santa Fe County.

Thank you,

Bill Hill
Hill Top Productions, LLC
14 Pollito Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone: 505-982-3191
Fax: 505-438-4524
www.hilltopproductionsllc.com
Like us on Facebook

Jose Larranaga

From: patricia mckenna <patrat111@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:06 AM
To: Jose Larranaga

Hello, I will be at the hearing and I strongly appose the mining permit. We are in a water shortage, the value of our land is important, the quality of our lives and air is crucial to us. Please get back to me with your reasoning for approving strip mining. I want to understand what it brings to the community you represent. Patricia McKenna, owner of Redbone in Madrid and a ranch in the Ortiz. 505 780 1380.... patrat111@yahoo.com..... 192 Camino Cerro Chato Cerrillos NM 87010

Jose Larranaga

From: Tish Wilson <tishwilson1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:36 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada Mesa

Dear Mr. Larranaga:

Please do NOT support the strip mining in La Bajada Mesa. In a state like NM (high drought state) the amount of water needed and the dust it will create is just not worth the destruction of a beautiful area. The mining is not essential and therefore should not be allowed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely
Patricia "Tish" Wilson
tishwilson1@gmail.com
505-660-7599

Jose Larranaga

From: Bill Scruggs <bionicbilly45@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:09 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Sir:

As a resident of the Rancho San Marcos subdivision of Highway 14 south of I-25, I am **strongly opposed** to the proposed gravel mining at **La Bajada Mesa**. Such an operation would permanently damage the quality of life in our area and depreciate our property values. It appears it would also have a similar impact on most of the surrounding housing and recreation areas besides just Rancho San Marcos. Please do not permit this operation for the good of all of Santa Fe and the area to it's south which services so many residents.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns,

William M. Scruggs
Resident and President, Rancho San Marcos Homeowners Association
214 Calle Galisteo
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Jose Larranaga

From: Karen Weese <karenweese@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:14 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Jose Larranaga,

I am writing to you as a physician and a concerned homeowner in the Rancho San Marcos subdivision in the Turquoise Trail area.

I do NOT support mining on La Bajada Mesa for several reasons:

- Increased water usage by the mine in an already water restricted area - we don't need to deplete our water reservoirs any faster
- We already have a tremendous amount of dust in our area, adding one more mine nearby will make it far worse and significantly decrease our air quality - Increased air pollution from commercial vehicles in the area will also significantly affect our air quality

Please DO NOT allow this petition to pass. Keeping our water supply flowing and our air clean is of utmost importance to the health of those of us who live in the county. Having yet another gravel mine nearby will significantly impact our health in a negative way.

Sincerely,
Dr Karen Weese MD
Homeowner in Rancho San Marcos

Jose Larranaga

From: Marc Choyt <reflective@cybermesa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:36 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bahada Strip Mine

Dear Mr. Larrañaga:

I strongly oppose the proposed strip mine on La Bahada. The property in question is zoned residential/agricultural and is completely contrary to Santa Fe County's own sustainability criteria.

Given our current drought, and the outlook for drought in the future, we cannot afford to sacrifice the water needed for this operation. In addition, the area is of significance historically and to area wildlife.

The mine would also drastically impact the quality of life for all residents in the area.

There is a great wellspring of concern over recent issues happening in and around Galisteo Basin. From the Lamy, to the proposed Ortiz mine and this strip mine, the democratic consensus is that we want to preserve our land and quality of life. The opposition to these projects is growing every day. We are fighting for our future here.

As a business person and a concerned citizen, I urge you to oppose this plan and protect the citizens of Santa Fe County from these industrial projects that will drain our resources and reduce the quality of life.

Sincerely,
Marc Choyt

--

Marc Choyt

President, Reflective Images Inc.

Director: Fair Jewelry Action, USA

www.artisanweddingrings.com

www.celticjewelry.com

skype: circlemanifesto

email: reflective@cybermesa.com

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Reflective Images Inc.

912 Baca Street

Jose Larranaga

From: bensondes@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:40 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Labajada Mine

I strongly object to the Labajada Mine project. I live in the nearby area and I see no good reason for mining to destroy the area. Is making money all that important????

Martha Benson
94 Haozous Rd
87508

Jose Larranaga

From: Robert Benedetti <benedettir@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 2:13 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Categories: Red Category

The proposal to mine a 50 acre section of La Bajada Mesa is outrageous! The mesa is part of the historic landmark that the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance (NMHPA) has recognized as one of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places". Mining there would destroy its unique character. Please say NO!

**Dr. and Mrs. Robert Benedetti
Santa Fe**

Jose Larranaga

From: Anna Brown <anna@mediagirl.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:59 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Categories: Red Category

To the citizens representatives of Santa Fe County & NM,

I cannot communicate how strongly I oppose the application to mine on La Bajada Mesa.

I grew up in Cerrillos, NM and have driven the Waldo Rd more times than I can ever count. The mesa is part of my childhood, it's part on Santa Fe County and it's part of NM.

It's what makes "New Mexico True"!! New Mexican's can't say how historical, beautiful and amazing NM is while slowly allowing the state to be dismantled.

As citizens representatives, please protect NM. Do not approve this application to mine on the mesa. If you need a practical reason, deny it because we don't have water to be giving away.

Anna

Anna Brown
MediaGirl, Inc.
Tel: (505) 205-1597
anna@mediagirl.com
Twitter: [@mediagirl](https://twitter.com/mediagirl)

Jose Larranaga

From: Brendan Shepherd <bswriter@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 10:27 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Mining permit in La Bajada

Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. Larra

As a land owner in Santa Fe County I strongly oppose the proposal to allow mining in the area of La Bajada. Foremost, as you well know, we have been in a consistent water shortage, and the use of millions of gallons of water for this mine is unacceptable. This will be an environmental disaster not only to the water supply, but also to the land and to the overall historical value of La Bajada and the entire area. Quality of life is important to all of us; please do not approve this mining permit. I would appreciate an answer from you regarding your position on this matter. I want to understand what advantages it brings to the community you represent.

Brendan Shepherd, business owner in Madrid and homeowner in the Ortiz Mountains. 35 Grateful Way, Cerrillos NM 87010.

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 10:30 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Fwd: La Bajada

Categories: Red Category

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

----- Original Message -----

Subject: FW: La Bajada
From: Hill Top Productions <bill@filmprojection.com>
To: Penny Ellis-Green <pengreen@co.santa-fe.nm.us>
CC:

I was told that sending this letter to Mr. Larra would not do any good unless I sent a copy to you. I don't understand, but here is a copy of the letter I sent yesterday. I hope you can put it to good use.

Thank you

Bill Hill

From: Hill Top Productions [<mailto:bill@filmprojection.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:00 AM
To: 'joselarra@co.santa-fe.nm.us'
Subject: La Bajada

Sir,

I have been informed that Santa Fe County staff is recommending approval to the recent application for mining La Bajada Mesa.

This is such a bad decision in so many ways, including the use of our limited water supplies and degradation of our environment.

La Bajada should be a National Monument, not a gravel pit. The aesthetic entrance to Santa Fe and Rio Arriba will be irreparably ruined.

The local people do not want this.

Please rethink your position as a representative of the people of Santa Fe County.

Thank you,

Bill Hill
Hill Top Productions, LLC
14 Pollito Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone: 505-982-3191
Fax: 505-438-4524
www.hilltopproductionsllc.com
Like us on Facebook

Jose Larranaga

From: colleen <c_m_mccann@cybermesa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:37 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Robert A. Anaya; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC --- Buena Vista's mining application to mine La Bajada Mesa
Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. Larrañaga:

I am writing to express my opinion and concerns about Buena Vista's application to mine La Bajada Mesa near Waldo Canyon off of I-25. Many issues were overlooked by the county when the application was approved. This application needs to be rightly reaccessed and disapprove of this mining operation.

The mining application needs to be reaccessed because of the adverse effects mining would have on Santa Fe county residents. In particular, the indiscriminate change in zoning laws from agricultural/residential to commercial use that adversely affects residential property values, the minimal fee charged (2 cents a gallon) to buy potable water from the county well on Rte 14 near the prison during a time of drought and the failure to refer to and abide by sustainable land use laws.

The proposed mining activities of Buena Vista's are detrimental to Santa Fe county residents in many ways. Below are several questions I have about the approving this application and the reasons why I think this mining operation is a bad choice. I trust this information will sway your decision to reaccess and disapprove of Buena Vista Estates & Rockology LLC's mining application in order to protect land and potable water sources, property values, and the health and well being of Santa Fe county residents.

1. Santa Fe County and most of the country has been in a severe drought.

Why are you supporting a proposal that would waste a potable water source by using water from the county well on Rte 14 for an unneeded gravel mining operation?

Was the county's decision to give Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC unlimited water rights to use potable water for a "25 year" mining operation an oversight?

Why is the county considering giving away large amounts of "potable water" in a time of severe drought from the well on Rte 14 for a ridiculously low and minimal fee?

Buena Vista opened a \$200.00 water account for potable water well on Rte 14. Water restrictions for this well are 2.1 acre feet a year. This company is predicting an estimated 710,000 gallons per year for "DUST CONTROL alone." Is this a good use of potable water or a good source of revenue when the county is selling it at "2 cents" a gallon in a time of drought? Is this an outdated water fee for potable water?

Are water catchment and "water recycling" procedures included in their proposed plan?

2. I am curious as to why this mining operation (and other commercial enterprises) are not lawfully required to use grey water, rather than, potable water sources for such endeavors?

The county produces grey water at the water recycling plant.

Why is grey water not sold for revenue and used as a water source for commercial use?

3. NM has been in a drought for over 14 years. The amount of water the Buena Vista mining project will use in the next 25 years from the county well on Rte 14 is hundreds of thousands of gallons of "potable" county water. Are you aware many households draw water from the well on Rte 14 to supplement their water for household use due to non-productive and/or failing wells?

4. There are watering restrictions required by law in Santa Fe because of drought.

Shouldn't a watering law be carried over to commercial endeavors?

There should be "no favoritism" in water use for commercial endeavors especially during extreme and extended times of drought!

5. As we enter a 14th year of drought, Santa Fe County will again be in severe high-risk fire area. Many areas along the Rte 14 extend east into Rancho Viejo and El Dorado and to points west to I-25. This area is flanked by severely dry, flat plains that are frequently visited by high winds. Fires in this area can easily break out, spread to wide area and get out of control. Where will water come from to service these areas in times of fire if Buena Vista runs Rte 14's county well dry?

6. What is the county's back-up plan to service potable water to towns?

We have been in and severe drought conditions for over 14 years with future droughts predicted. Reservoir levels are well below the norm and aquifers have not been replenished with rain water or snow. If the county well on Rte 14 runs dry from Buena Vista's excessive use of water for their private commercial enterprise, where will Cerrillos, El Dorado, Rancho Viejo, Madrid and other outlying areas get potable water from? And, ... how will residents pay for this?

7. Buena Vista's 50-acre parcel of mining operations will deplete potable water resources on Rte 14 and also destroy what has been a historical, cultural and environmentally significant landscape to New Mexico's tourism for hundreds of years. Was an environmental impact study done? Were archeologist studies submitted and read cover to cover? What were the findings of this area? Do the Pueblo Governors agree with these findings?

8. There is no shortage or imminent need for another basalt gravel mine in the County or another gravel mining operation off of I-25. Several suppliers already exist and supply these materials within that same area.

9. The current owners of Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC have "**no protected rights**" to demand a re-zoning of their property which is currently zoned agricultural/residential to commercial zoning. The intended zoning is in place for good reason and needs to remain as is.

10. Re-zoning of this property from agricultural to commercial would affect residential property values and the livelihood of nearby residents in this proposed mining area.

Noisy, dirty, commercial endeavors devalue residential property values. Selling a residential property with noise and dust pollution from a 25-year proposed period of: blasting, multiple crushers, trucks hauling debris from nearby mining would legally need to be revealed in a Real Estate contract as an "adverse material fact," meaning, something negative is or can adversely affect a property owner's health and happiness, and decrease the property's value. Generally speaking, adverse material facts are unattractive selling qualities that do **NOT** attract real estate investors or raise real estate values.

11. The County has no obligation to enhance the economic value of Buena Vista's property for its owners while depleting the community resources and devaluing their neighbor's property value due from the adverse material facts created by their mining. Overall, mining operations are detrimental to county residents and residential real estate investments.

12. Creating a mining eyesore along the pristine environment along I-25 that leads into Santa Fe and Waldo Canyon and Galisteo Basin park lands that are sustainable economic and cultural resources would be detrimental to New Mexico's tourism. The Mesa needs to be preserved as open space for the welfare and culture of the county, city, state, and the country.

13. The county made approved the application in error. The county approved the application based on outdated laws of 2006. They did not abide by the sustainable land laws that are in place.

I trust you are innately fair-minded and will do what's best to protect the rights of Santa Fe county citizens. With these new facts and errors in mind, you can make better educated and sound ethical decisions about the implication of approving this commercial endeavor. To reiterate my points I will say, the county should seriously reaccess Buena Vista's mining application because of failing to:

1- adhere to current sustainable law for land and water use

2- update potable county well and water usage laws while considering the amount of water used by commercial enterprises so as not to deplete potable water sources during times of drought. The amount of water used for commercial enterprises SHOULD NOT be unlimited or at the business owners discretion.

3- New laws and standards need to be specifically written for the Rte 14 county well so that county residents have a reservoir of protected potable drinking water. Current drought conditions, and failing water wells are causing water problems for residential home owners.

4- Water usage for large commercial endeavors in Santa Fe county needs to be more closely monitored. The county should also address using grey water as opposed to using potable drinking water for commercial purposes to protect potable drinking water rights and potable water drinking resources for Santa Fe county residents.

5- Re-zoning the La Bajada from an agricultural area to a commercial mining area was unethical and unfair to local residents in that area. A person's happiness and quality of life in their retirement years can be deeply compromised due to unexpected decreases in their property value caused by adverse material facts from mining due to an indiscriminate change in zoning laws that were approved by the county. Adverse material facts legally need to be written into Real Estate contracts, i.e.; noise and dust pollution emanating from an a mining operation can cause ill health. Adverse material facts decrease property values. People's health and their livestock's health can be compromised by airborne dust which results in allergies and asthma.

6- Cultural artifacts from archeological studies need to be protected in this proposed mining area.

7- water catchment harvesting and recycling procedures should be included in their proposed plans

In closing, my final remarks are to keep the La Bajada area free from Buena Vista mining operations is a GOOD CHOICE. Keeping the original zoning in place would protect archeological sites that attract tourism and not cause ANY threats to Santa Fe county residents' property values, livelihood or potable water reserves that people rely on. It is the right decision to make.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Colleen McCann

Erika A. Garcia

From: Jim Janis <jimmyj96@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 7:44 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada mine permit

I am a resident of Cerrillos, NM, in Santa Fe County, and enjoy the scenic beauty of La Bajada every day. I'm writing to ask you to not grant the permit for the proposed gravel mine that would mar this national treasure forever.

The gravel pit is not needed since there are several others nearby. It would use a tremendous amount of water, create dust and air pollution, and not provide any economic benefit to our community since only 7 jobs might be involved. That is an enormous cost for very very little benefit.

I hope that you will not allow this mine to proceed to mar our beautiful neighborhood.

Sent from my iPad by Jim Janis, PO Box 749, Cerrillos, NM 87010

Erika A. Garcia

From: Thomas McIntosh, RPA <jeraii@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 7:55 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada Mining Proposal

Hi Jose,

I, and many of my colleagues in the New Mexico Archeological Council are highly opposed to any development on La Bajada Mesa. Among the many reasons for our opposition is the underlying potential of the venture to permanently alter a rare cultural landscape that has inspired many millennea of local populations, and which has in recent times, economically stimulated hundreds of thousands of tourist-guests in the Santa Fe region and northern New Mexico. I urge you to include my comments and those of my colleagues in all discussions that relate to permit approval of the La Bajada mining venture. We will appreciate any comments from you and your office regarding this proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom

Thomas McIntosh
Registered Professional Archaeologist
Post Office Box 23753
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
505-982-2341
jeraii@aol.com

Erika A. Garcia

From: Delise9999 <delise9999@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 9:29 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Letter for the Record re. preservation of La Bajada Mesa / Request to decline application for mining i.e. Buena Vista/Rockology LLC

Dear Mr. Larranaga:

There is a broad coalition of residents, institutions, organizations and businesses in Santa Fe County that support the preservation and protection of La Bajada Mesa and the escarpment for its renowned cultural, historical, and environmental attributes.

We do not support mining in this location for the following reasons:

- 1.) Mining in this site would result in the degradation of NM cultural landscape that has been historically, culturally and environmentally significant to New Mexico for hundred of years.
- 2.) Mining the Mesa would ruin the geological integrity — the grandeur of this oceanic Gateway along I-25 into Santa Fe & Waldo Canyon Road - the road into the Galisteo basin park lands, a sustainable and growing economic resource. The Mesa needs to be preserved as open space for the welfare of the county, city, state, and thus the nation.
- 3.) There is no need for another basalt gravel mine in the County or another gravel mining operation off of I-25 as there are several existing gravel mines within reasonable proximity that can provide these materials.
- 4.) The current owners have no protected rights to demand a rezoning as they purchased the property with the current agricultural/residential zoning in place. The County has no obligation to enhance the economic (sold by the cubic yard) value of the property to the detriment of the County and State as a whole.

We are respectfully requesting that the application to mine La Bajada Mesa by Buena Vista / Rockology LLC be declined. Thank you.

With regard,

Dianne Elise Strauss

President, Portfolio Group
Santa Fe, NM

December 12, 2013

Jim Siebert
915 Mercer Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505

Re: CDRC CASE # Z/DMXT 13-5360 Buena Vista Estates & Rockology LLC

Mr. Siebert:

This office has conducted a preliminary review on the above referenced submittal. Several concerns on the Application were discussed and it was decided that this Application should be deemed incomplete until such time that the following items are addressed:

1. The acreage of disturbance for each Phase shall be defined on the plans.
2. Total acreage of disturbance of the mine site shall be defined on the plans.
3. The haul route for the water trucks providing water to the site shall be defined in the report.
4. Interior circulation of equipment and trucks shall be defined on the plans.
5. Provide information (proof) that the material being mined on the site is sufficient for the duration of the expected mining period. (Have samples of the material been obtained at different depths to prove availability?)
6. Topography after each Phase of disturbance shall be provided
7. A topographical plan shall be provided to illustrate what the topography will look like at the end of Phase III.
8. Implement mining techniques that create a low impact overtime by disturbing a smaller area of land in each Phase and providing reclamation at the end of each Phase rather than excavating a large sum of land at one time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office at 986-6296.

Sincerely,

Jose E. Larrañaga
Development Review Team Leader
Fax-(505) 986-6389
joselarra@santafecountynm.gov

NBB- 862

Erika A. Garcia

From: Peggy Cooke <17amie52@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2014 5:05 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: mining in the Galesteo

Dear Mr. Larrañaga,

I'm learning about a plan to mine the La Bajada Mesa - arguments against it make sense to me (if accurate):

- 1) it would take water to accomplish the mining and water is already a scarce resource in the area
- 2) other gravel mining operations exist that could supply the road materials
- 3) current owners purchased the land with agricultural/residential zoning - permitting a re-zone to the financial benefit of an owner is not responsible, considering the cost to the county residents (loss of water, loss of historical & cultural value)
- 4) preservation of The Mesa has value - environmental and geological - such a massive mining operation would blacken the New Mexico legacy and take us backward in our State's efforts to responsibly preserve our land and resources
- 5) mining in an area that draws hundreds of visitors would discourage the tourism industry - why hinder one economic industry that supports many for the benefit of land owner

Thank you for considering my input as this mining permit is considered.

Peggy Cooke
Eldorado of Santa Fe

Erika A. Garcia

From: madridtext@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 1:53 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: proposed la bajada gravel mine

Hi,

I am writing to express my opinion (shared by many) that the proposed La Bajada gravel mine is not a sound location for such a project nor do I approve of using "county" water for such a project. Noise, dust, truck traffic and of course the use of water is wrong for a beautiful place that is not only a draw for tourists but the very reason many of us continue to live here. All in All...bad idea, leave La Bajada alone.

Jeffrey Seppanen -Seppanen & Daughters FINE TEXTILES Madrid, NM 87010 tel. 424-7470

Erika A. Garcia

From: Barbara Anschel <bak@q.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 1:29 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

February 1, 2014
To Whom It May Concern,

We would like to register our opposition to the proposed Rockology/Buena Vista application to mine for gravel on La Bajada near the Waldo Road exit. We have been residents of Santa Fe County for 38 years and do not think that this project serves our county's economic or environmental interests. In specific, we oppose it for the following reasons:

- The geology of La Bajada is unique and disturbing its geologic integrity will forever mar the beautiful entrance to Santa Fe via RT.25.
- Any jobs and resources for local residents are negligible compared to the impact of the mine.
- At a time when we are facing severe drought, it is unconscionable to use the amount of water it would take to avoid dust pollution from the project or reclamation of the site. From where we live, we can see the destruction of the Vulcan/ Santo Domingo gravel mine which resulted in serious dust storms last summer during the drought. Our scant water resources need to be preserved for the people of the county, not businesses that will come and go, leaving behind irreparable environmental damage; the inevitable erosion and loss of soil which will demand even more water.
- The possibility of additional large scale mining if the applicants acquire both water rights and land is a concern and stopping the project at this point would be wise.

Thank you for considering our objections. We hope the county will decide in favor of our land, water and people.

Sincerely,
Barbara Anschel
Bart Kaltenbach
36 Woodstock Ln.
Madrid, NM 87010
505-984-1254

Erika A. Garcia

From: Pat Brown <patbrownkw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 2:23 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: murlock@raintreecounty.com
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

I am writing to you regarding this proposal. I grew up on this ranch in the early 60's to the late 70's. As a child cowboy this land has left a great impact on my life. The cliff line separated our upper pasture from our lower pasture and is rich in history. Many petroglyphs exist along this escarpment and is evidence of past cultures. The land behind the cliff has lots of relics in it, evidenced by shards and other artifacts just below the surface. I believe the area has tremendous historical significant that precedes even the first known men in the area by establishing the volcanic activity that was a part of creating this area. To destroy even a part of this is something that can not be replaced. I ask you to oppose any effort to destroy this area.

Kindly yours,

--

L. Pat Brown
Keller Williams Realty
130 Lincoln Ave., Ste. K
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-988-3700 O
505-469-1203 M
PatBrownKW@gmail.com
<http://PatBrownSantaFe.KWRealty.com>
FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS.

Erika A. Garcia

From: Jennifer LaBar-Jaramillo
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 11:53 AM
To: Katherine Miller; Erik H. Aaboe
Cc: Jose Larranaga
Subject: FW: La Bajada gravel pit

All,

I just spoke with Mr. Brown. His concerns are written below, but wanted to make sure you are aware of this since he does not get a response back from Commissioner Anaya. The Village is working on getting organized to come down to the February 20 meeting. There is also a master plan to create a mining zone in the same area (will be heard around March, per Jose).

There is also interest for the south face of the Ortiz Mountains to blast/mine as well (for gold), no submittal has come to the County yet.

The community is worried that the County will issue mining permits all around them, "destroying the landscape and beauty of the area".

Jennifer LaBar-Jaramillo

Santa Fe County Manager's Office
(505) 986-6293

www.santafecountynm.gov

From: P. Brown [<mailto:brownp52@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2014 2:50 PM
To: Jennifer LaBar-Jaramillo
Subject: La Bajada gravel pit

Jennifer, Constituent Services Liaison,

I am reaching out to you for some help here. Can you please discuss this with the County Manager. There is a private gravel company trying to get an application to tear down La Bajada Mesa which is the dividing line for Rio Abajo & Rio Arriba in New Mexico. The gravel mine would be located at Interstate 25 & CR 57, the Waldo Rd. There is already a gravel pit at CR 57 & Interstate 25 using the road with over 50 semi's each day, tearing down one the Cerrillos hills. We do not think tearing down La Bajada Mesa is a good idea either. Everyone in the area is upset about this. It is a beauty point in our view shed. The company has just gotten the okay to buy chlorinated drinking water from the hauling station at the County jail, to pour on the ground for dust control. We do not think this is a good idea as it is our drinking water for the future. I am enclosing a letter that I have written to the case worker Jose Larranaga. As President, representing the village association, I am letting you know - We do not need another gravel pit eyesore along the Interstate. We do not want this project approved. Please call me or email me with an update, if possible. The County hearing is February 20, 2014.

Todd Brown

Las Candelas de Los Cerrillos community association
Cerrillos, New Mexico

Jose,
I live in the village of Cerrillos and use County Road 57 quite often to reach the Interstate. Where CR57 meets I-25, there is already a large working gravel pit. There are over 50 trucks leaving it a day. I do not think that we need another gravel pit across the road from the existing one, stripping out La Bajada volcanic mesa lava flow. There is just no reason for it.

With all the gravel pits being developed on Interstate, the views are getting chopped up and destroyed. It is an eyesore. We do not need another gravel pit eyesore added along the Interstate.

Concerning the water trying to be used for the gravel pit. It is County chlorinated water from the County jail fill station and I do not think this is a good idea either. It is a complete waste of drinking water to be sprayed on the ground and wasted for dust control. Our water is too precious.

Please do not let this gravel pit go in. 1. We want to retain the view. 2. There are enough gravel pits on the Interstate already. 3. It would be a waste of chlorinated water we will need in the future.

Please remember that La Bajada Volcanic Mesa is the line between Rio Arriba and Rio Abajo. It should not be disturbed. It is original landscape and we all love looking at it.
sincerely, Todd Brown

Casa Grande Trading Post, Mining Museum & Petting Zoo
Cerrillos, New Mexico

Erika A. Garcia

From: Elizabeth Buchen <esbuchen@gmail.com>
ent: Monday, January 27, 2014 11:57 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Mr. Larrañaga,

I am writing to strongly OPPOSE any mining on La Bajada Mesa. I was born and raised in Santa Fe and have lived for most of my adult life in Albuquerque, frequently returning to Santa Fe to visit family and for work. The drive from Albuquerque to Santa Fe is very special to me, and cresting La Bajada hill always fills me with a sense of awe at the beauty of the scenery. This is an important part of my heritage as a New Mexican, and I urge you to protect it for future generations.

Those are my honest, personal reasons for caring about this issue. There are also many logical and practical arguments, many of which have been articulated by the Rural Conservation Alliance (see below).

Please keep all of these concerns in mind as you consider this case.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Buchen, MD
505-577-5361

PRESERVATION

--La Bajada Mesa, listed by the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance as a Most Endangered Place, is the gateway to the city of Santa Fe and needs to be a protected cultural landscape. The arts, including paintings, drawings, pottery, photographs and films attest to the profound significance of La Bajada Mesa to New Mexico's culture and economy.

--The current owners have no protected rights to demand a rezoning as they purchased the property with the current agricultural/residential zoning in place. The County has no obligation to enhance the value of the property (which is also for sale) to the detriment of the County and State as a whole.

IMPACTS

--Mining the Mesa would ruin the geological integrity--the grandeur of this oceanic Gateway along I-25 into Santa Fe & Waldo Canyon Road, the road leads into the Galisteo basin park lands, a sustainable and growing economic resource.

--Mining in this site would result in environmental and cultural degradation of a landscape that has been historically, culturally and environmentally significant to New Mexico for hundreds of years.

--Development of such an industry poorly sited on an otherwise open landscape would result in impacts including increased pollution from carbon emissions and fugitive dust from multiple crushers, conveyors and heavy industrial traffic, along with blasting and night lighting.

--Mining in this location would not only negatively impact the Gateway vista from I-25 and Waldo Canyon Road--the western access to the Cerrillos Hills State Park--but would be a blight from the higher elevations of the trails that lead from the Cerrillos Hills State Park on BLM lands up Grand Central Mt. and from other recognized scenic vistas from the south and east.

--No visual impact report has been done for views from I-25, Waldo Canyon Road, the higher trails above the Cerrillos Hills State park, NM 14, and residential areas.

--The New Mexico State Parks, through the "Cerrillos Hills/Galisteo Basin State Park Feasibility Study" in 2006 concluded that the best access to the future state park would be from the I-25 corridor. An intensive expanding mine in this location along Waldo Canyon Road would have a discouraging impact upon a significant number of park visitors encountering unanticipated industrial activities, including the trucks on the road and the visual impacts of the mine itself.

--There is no need for another basalt gravel mine in the County or another gravel mining operation off of I-25 as there are several existing gravel mines within reasonable proximity that can provide these materials to Rockology itself, an Albuquerque based company.

--Reclamation would be next to impossible after stripping some 20 feet of basalt. There is little surface topsoil to set aside for reclamation. There are no strong standards to insure that reclamation would be a success and there is the likelihood that what would be left behind would be an endless source of dust.

WATER

--Hauled water should not be considered adequate for long term mining operations. Santa Fe County should develop a policy that does not by default provide water to all Developments of Countywide Impact including oil and gas, mining, CAFO's etc. and not allow them to evade needed acquisition of commercial / industrial water rights. When a proposed mine is sited well (which the Buena Vista / Rockology isn't) it should have its own long-term water supply on site so as to eliminate the impacts of water hauling that includes traffic hazards as well as additional carbonization and infrastructure impacts from heavy trucks.

--Precedence? With a precedent set for mining the Mesa, if a mining company were to buy any or all of the remaining thousands of acres that are for sale on the international market, what then would become the county's obligations in 1) allowing further mining to the new corporate owners and, 2) supplying precious water resources for the extractions?

--Because hauling water for needed dust control is expensive, and because the company may be underestimating the amount needed, it may be they simply will not keep the dust contained, and especially if state air quality enforcement resources prove inadequate in providing oversight.

--Can Buena Vista / Rockology be trusted to spend money on sufficient dust control? Contrary to Rockology's application of 2008 which claimed that the mined materials were needed for the Railrunner construction project, it was revealed by the press that NMDOT already had secured all the materials they would need. Their true intention appeared to be to start a 50 acre operation until at least 2020. Why should we trust them now in 2014 to go to the extra expense needed to haul sufficient water for dust control?

--The acre feet of water suggested by Buena Vista (2.19) is woefully insufficient to accomplish the intended uses, which in their application does not include reclamation.

--The amount of water needed is not clear. The application claims a total of 710,000 gallons a year or 2.19 acre feet, which we think would be woefully insufficient to accomplish the suppression of dust. Even this amount would generate thousands of heavy water haul truck passes a year and contribute to deterioration of our state and county roads, the repair of which the taxpayer would have to subsidize.

--In keeping with the county strategy to allow growth only where it is wanted and timely, this is also not a good location.

--It is not in the public welfare to use County water to open up an unsustainable relatively short-term operation that would degrade a long recognized historic and cultural landscape--a landscape that can otherwise contribute sustainably to the county's economic welfare through the tourist industry.

SPECULATION

--The current owners have no protected rights to demand a rezoning for the extractive industry as they purchased the property with the current agricultural/residential zoning in place. The County has no obligation to enhance the value of the property by shifting its economic worth from the value of an acre to the cubic yard.

--The property is for sale on the international market. Buena Vista is marketing the entire property of approximately 5217 acres and is including in the purpose the mining of basalt and other minerals.

--The applicant is seeking to rezone a portion of La Bajada Mesa from agriculture/residential to mining for its narrowly focused economic interests. Any such mining zone would likely be subject to expansion. The whole mesa is capped by basalt. Example: in 2002 JR Hale Contracting proposed a 500 acre strip-mine there that overlaps the current 50 acres as diagramed.

--County staff in the past (2005 & 2008) recommend denial of the permit based on a "cadre" of reasons including the threat to historical and archeological resources and because they did not want to create a new mining zone. Has anything changed since 2008 that would make gravel mining in this location any more or less suitable? Less, YES! Since then, a State Park has become a reality offering a sustainable resource just east and down wind from the proposed mine site which is incompatible.

Erika A. Garcia

From: Marie Harding <mharding@synergiranch.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2014 11:56 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Jose Larrañaga,

I am writing, not for the first time, to highly object to the mining of the Mesa. It was a bad idea before, and it still is.

The owners are demanding a rezoning of a property that they bought with agricultural/residential zoning. Why would the County take it upon themselves to change that, just to degrade the property that has otherwise important cultural, historical and environmental significance to New Mexico for hundreds of years. That Mesa is a geologic and scenic gateway to the historic city of Santa Fe, as well as the Galisteo basin park lands which are becoming a sustainable and growing economic resource. The Mesa needs to be preserved as open space for the welfare of the county, city, state, and the nation. It should be made a feature of the historic Santa Fe, not a mining pit.

There are other already existing gravel mines in the area that already adequately supply gravel needed. The County doesn't need yet another one, and in such a glorious place.

This query comes up frequently enough that it's a waste of money and resources to have to keep fighting to preserve this important landmark area. The most logical and gracious results could be obtained if the County could purchase the property and make it into a historic park, it would solve a lot of problems. I understand budgetary considerations and difficulties that might arise, but think of the money, time and effort that could be saved by the County, the gratitude of Santa Feans, as well as pride in such a landmark being preserved as your/our legacy!

Yours truly,

Marie Harding

Synergia Ranch
26 Synergia Road
Santa Fe, NM 87508
Tel: 505 471 2573

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:21 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Fwd: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Categories: Red Category

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

----- Original Message -----

Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

From: Philip Metcalf <pfmtcalf@gmail.com>

To: Penny Ellis-Green <pengreen@co.santa-fe.nm.us>

CC:

Dear Ms Ellis-Green,

Please oppose the mining of La Bajada. There are other mines nearby that can supply the same material.

LaBajada is the gateway to Santa Fe and should not be reduced to a mining operation.

Santa Fe and the surrounding community depend upon tourism for their livelihood. Tourists don't come to Santa Fe to see mines nor to breath the dust a mine creates - they come to experience the beauty of an unspoiled New Mexico landscape. The City, County, and State should be involved in efforts to protect and enhance the natural landscape, not to mine it.

Most importantly in a community that goes the extra mile to conserve water, it is outrageous to commit water to such an operation when all forecasts say that we will have less water in the future than we do at present.

Philip Metcalf
Voting Resident of Santa Fe

Jose Larranaga

From: Jan Olsen <janolsen@cnsn.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:29 PM
To: Jose Larranaga; Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Robert A. Anaya; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics; murlock@raintreecounty.com; diane.senior@gartner.com
Subject: La Bajada Mesa
Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. Larranaga and County Commissioners,

I wish to voice my hope that the County Commissioners will value the La Bajada Mesa for its beauty as the portal to our historic city of Santa Fe above its value to private enterprise for mining.

Please do the right thing and deny the application.

Jan Olsen
Haozous Road
Santa Fe

Don Van Doren
351 Camino Cerro Chato
Cerrillos, NM 87010

February 6, 2014

Jose Larrañaga
Case Manager
Santa Fe County
P.O. Box 276
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Re: CDRC Case: Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga:

I am a Santa Fe County resident and voter and strongly oppose the Buena Vista Estates / Rockology application to strip mine La Bajada Mesa.

The proposed mine location would have a highly visible, negative impact for miles around. The picture below shows La Bajada Mesa from a location to the southeast. The arrow points to the approximate location of the proposed mine.



Contrast this prominent location with the Caja Del Rio Quarry, which is already producing basalt-based gravel for the County. That quarry has a non-potable water source, and is well situated near the County landfill, minimizing additional visual impacts and creating a cavity that might later be filled with County refuse. The County should not permit a new strip mine on La Bajada Mesa when existing, better-sited options are available.

There are a number of other negative factors beyond the visual impact of this strip mine that make it critical that this proposed application be denied. Here are some of these issues:

- I understand that the applicant proposes to haul potable water from County facilities on Route 14. Is this the correct precedent to establish—County sale of potable water for private mining and industrial purposes? Is this the best use of a diminishing resource that should be available to meet the future needs of all residents?
- Dust from the mining activities as well as from water trucks and gravel hauling trucks over the dirt roads will degrade surrounding properties and those downwind. Has the applicant planned to haul sufficient water for the roads as well as for the mining operations?

NBB-876

- Have the costs been included to maintain or upgrade the County, State, and Interstate roads from the pounding of the trucks? (Paid for by us, not by Rockology).
- Noise from the blasting, digging, grinding, and pulverizing of the basalt will spread unimpeded for miles—where we live, there are no sounds except the birds, but that would change dramatically.
- Light pollution from security lights at night will be very annoying—many of us live here because we enjoy the stars in the dark skies.
- I understand that the applicant will need a zoning variance. If the site for the mine is rezoned, then the adjacent lands will become undesirable for less intensive purposes. Does this also establish a precedent to make future mining applications in this area easier to be granted? Buena Vista appears to own the rest of the mesa top surrounding this oddly-situated 50 acre parcel. Is this 50-acre application really just a precursor to mining the entire mesa top?
- What precedents are being established in this fragile place, and is this historic cultural landmark the place where we want this kind of destructive growth?
- The proposed site borders important wildlife corridors.
- Runoff will go to the Galisteo Creek and to the watershed that goes to the Rio Grande.
- Tourism is an important part of our economy. Tourists don't come to see strip mines.

The County has no obligation to grant the applicants' request. But our County officials do have an obligation to conserve our water resources and protect the landscape that sustains our local economy through film, tourism and the many people who are drawn here by the beauty of this place. Our open spaces and water are resources for the long term common good of all the citizens, taxpayers, and voters, not something to be pillaged and scarred for the short term profits of a few.

I sincerely hope you share this belief and will decide to deny this Buena Vista Estates/Rockology application.

Sincerely,



Don Van Doren
3151 Camino Cerro Chato
Cerrillos, NM 87010
505-216-6612



Marc Simmons
Historian

P.O. Box 51
Cerrillos,
New Mexico 87010

Feb. 1, 2014

José Larrañaga
Santa Fe county Land Use Dept.
102 Grant Ave.
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Mr. Larrañaga,

I strongly oppose the pending application by Buena Vista to mine historic La Bajada Mesa. Its proposal to rezone property it now holds, presently zoned agricultural-residential, is entirely inappropriate, inasmuch as La Bajada Mesa possesses important scenic and historical values.

I trust you will give this matter your careful and serious attention.

Sincerely,

Marc Simmons
Marc Simmons

NBB-878

Jose Larranaga

From: Emilie Sederholm <anemilie9@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 6:59 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Categories: Red Category

To Jose Larranaga, Case Manager

I am writing this letter to inform you that I am AGAINST the proposed mining project on La Bajada Mesa for numerous reasons, but in this letter I am addressing my concerns for the dust, the limited water issues, and the destruction of a beautiful cultural New Mexican landmark.

As a resident here on Camino Cerro Chato, whose home is in line with La Bajada Mesa, dust is already a way of life. There is not enough moisture to keep the dust and dirt naturally contained and so I deal with it. Before reaching work, I almost always have to dust myself off before entering my place of employment. I am constantly dusting and sweeping as it is and on a windy day it is a whole other ballgame. It frightens me to have to consider it could be dustier. I don't believe for a second that this mining company would actually care about the local residents to keep the dust contained, even if they were to procure enough water.

Which brings me to my second issue: water. I have no well. I have a very primitive rainwater collection system and more often than not, I have to haul in water to sustain my life here. Actually, most of the residences that I know of who have wells, also haul in water because it is often a desperate situation. Knowing first hand how infrequently it rains and how desperately we need it, I find it shocking that potable water, which is supposed to be allotted for the people who live out here, is being considered for this mining company. We have had a drought for over 6 years and my understanding of environmental concerns is that it is only going to get worse. There is already an existing mine: The Caja Del Rio Quarry is connected to a piped non-potable water system so it is not taking usable water from others to run. Why do we need another one? People need that water. Animals need that water. It should not go to the destruction of a cultural landmark.

And this brings me to the last issue in this letter. I choose to live out here. It is a two hour round trip to get to work each day. I have to haul in everything and as mentioned before, I am frequently covered in dust. Water is scarce and I am conscious of every drop I use. It is a challenging place to live. Yet everyday I look out at La Bajada Mesa and it is all worth it. I truly believe I live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. I can't believe it is even a question to destroy it. Do these mining companies/big businesses/corporations have to ruin everything? If you personally have not come and actually viewed what you are considering destroying, I beg you to do that. I beg you to show this big mining destruction company that Santa Fe county values and respects natural beauty, respects the needs of its people, and respects its cultural landmarks.

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 10:08 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Fwd: stop the threat to La Bajada Mesa and surrounding area

Categories: Red Category

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

----- Original Message -----

Subject: stop the threat to La Bajada Mesa and surrounding area
From: Bill Scruggs <bionicbilly45@gmail.com>
To: Penny Ellis-Green <pengreen@co.santa-fe.nm.us>
CC:

Ms Penny Ellis-Green,

As a resident of the Rancho San Marcos subdivision of Highway 14 south of I-25, I am **strongly opposed** to the proposed gravel mining at **La Bajada Mesa**. Such an operation would permanently damage the quality of life in our area and significantly depreciate our property values. It appears it would also have a similar impact on most of the surrounding housing and recreation areas besides just Rancho San Marcos. This concern is not just about air quality and heavy truck traffic, I also fear the irreparable damage the operation would cause to our aquifer and water table during a period when they are in jeopardy without the operation. Please do not permit this operation for the good of all of Santa Fe and the area to it's south which services so many residents.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns,

William M. Scruggs
Resident and President, Rancho San Marcos Homeowners Association
214 Calle Galisteo
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Jose Larranaga

From: Jerry Rogers <jrogers@cnsnp.net>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 10:41 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Buena Vista Estates/Rockology Mine Proposal

Categories: Red Category

As a founding member and former President of the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance, the statewide citizen heritage preservation organization, I urge the Santa Fe County Development Review Committee not to approve mining on *La Bajada* Mesa as proposed by Buena Vista Estates/Rockology LLC.

In past years the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance has declared *La Bajada* Escarpment, the New Mexico Night Sky, and the Waters of New Mexico as endangered historic places. This proposed surface mine would have negative effects on each of the three.

La Bajada Escarpment and the mesa behind it constitute one of the most recognizable landmarks in all of New Mexico. It is no surprise that it served as the dividing line between the colonial administrative districts of Rio Abajo and Rio Arriba, that it was a major obstacle on *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* and historic Route 66, nor that it was an important part of the cultural landscape for millennia before the first Europeans reached this wonderful area. What is surprising is that this towering black line has survived with so little scarring from the sometimes careless works of our contemporary culture and that even such a major road as I-25 can still approach Santa Fe through a pleasant natural setting.

I urge the County planning staff, the CRDC, and the Board of County Commissioners not only to deny this regrettable proposal but also to take further steps to ensure the preservation of this very important part of our cultural, natural, and scenic heritage.

Jerry L. Rogers
107 Calle Galisteo
Santa Fe, NM 87508
Former Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
Former President, New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance
Former member, Santa Fe County Open Lands Parks and Trails Advisory Committee (COLTPAC)

Jose Larrañaga
Case Manager
Santa Fe County
P.O. Box 276
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga:

I am writing to you as a Santa Fe County resident and tax payer to let you know I strongly oppose the strip-mining of La Bahada Mesa.

First and foremost is the issue of water usage: The proposed mining area has no available water. The suggestion of trucking in water is ridiculous for several reasons.

First of all water is a scarce commodity in these parts. Santa Fe has to get water from the Rio Grande to supply the city with drinking water, because groundwater pumping and reservoirs are no longer a reliable source of drinking water during drought conditions. Now the county would sell this valuable water to a mining company?

The slightest interruption of the top soil can cause a major dust problem. The trucking in off all the water needed to battle that problem would be way too expensive for the mining company, which leads to the expectation they will do that as little as possible.

Still the increase of the amount of heavy traffic will be enormous, with all the resulting extra road maintenance to be paid for by the county's taxpayers

Secondly there is the problem of light and air pollution. There is a huge area in Santa Fe County looking down on La Bahada Mesa. Now the night skies are dark and full of stars, with lighting on the worksite that will be in the past. Wildlife, using La Bahada as a corridor will be severely disrupted. The dust, resulting from the blasting and excavation will reduce the visibility, already compromised by dust and wildfire smoke during the summer.

The fact that this pollution is very visible will also decrease the value of the many properties looking down on the Mesa, so again the taxpayers are duped .

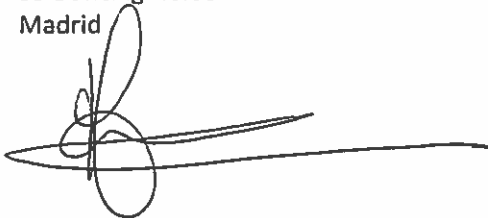
What does the taxpayer gain from all this?

There is no shortage of gravel, since the gravel pits in the area are far from depleted .

There won't be any new jobs for locals, as this is highly specialized work.

Kind regards,

Marc Hogenboom
59 Dancing Horse
Madrid

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MH', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

NBB-882

Jose Larrañaga
Case Manager
Santa Fe County
P.O. Box 276
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga:

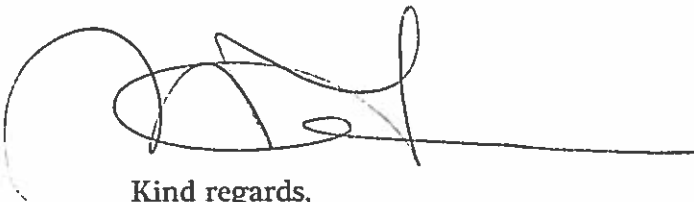
This letter is to let you know that I, as a Santa Fe County resident and tax payer strongly oppose the strip-mining of La Bahada Mesa.

Strip mining the Mesa would mean damaging the corridor through which Cougars and other wildlife travel between the Jemez Mountains and the Ortiz Mountains. The noise, dust and light of this mine would disrupt wildlife in a very large area. It would also damage the scenery for many Santa Fe county residents looking down on this Mesa.

Mining La Bahada Mesa would result in environmental and cultural degradation of land that has been historically, culturally and environmentally significant to New Mexico for hundreds of years.

The water needed for this project is not readily available on site, and even if it were it would be wasteful to use our valuable and scarce water for unneeded commercial enterprises.

There is no need for yet another grave mine as long as the existing ones are far from depleted.



Kind regards,

Wilhelmina W Steutel
59 Dancing Horse

87010 Madrid

NB3 - 883

John Herbrand

February 12, 2014

Hand Delivered

Jose Larranaga
Case Manager

Re: CDRC case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Mr. Larranaga:

It is my understanding that letters of opposition to the above-mentioned application should be directed to you and, as a resident of Santa Fe County and a registered voter there, I wish to register a serious objection.

Proposed development of the La Bajada Mesa and the La Cienega areas would impact the entire Santa Fe area by destroying historical and geological landscapes which are important to Santa Feans and to the overall economy of Northern New Mexico. Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe have talked about the importance of preserving the entrance of Santa Fe. However, we now have another proposed development alleging it will bring economic benefits to the community in the form of a miniscule number of jobs.

Right now, thousands of jobs in the Northern New Mexico are based upon a tourist business and a film industry which draw on the open views, the geology and the history of the area. Anything that endangers this source of income from out of the area is a direct threat to the livelihood of the entire community as well as a threat to the lifestyle and wellness of the entire community.

This entrance area to our community preserves the attraction of Santa Fe and plays a large part in the luring the people who support most of us. It joins history of early settlers, native, Hispanic and whites to the physical gifts of god to New Mexico. It helps produce the pride of the community in this place. As you enter Santa Fe from I-25, the signs read Museums and Historic areas next 5 exits to wet the appetite of travelers.

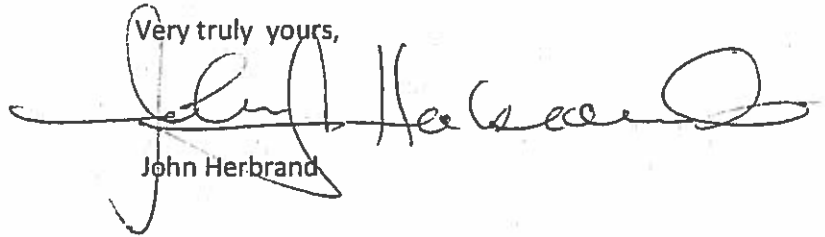
With the recent proposals of affordable housing and this proposal for mining, we only need to travel to Placitas to see what type of impact these type of developments would have on the entrance to Santa Fe. The area along the highway by Placitas is devoid of anything which enhances the lives of the members of the community. The mining draws truckers and outside residents for a few jobs, and the affordable housing along the highway seems to be misplaced. Development of the La Bajada Mesa for similar activities will cost the community rather than add to it.

NB13-884

The area is inundated with historical sites. The El Camino Real Trails cross the area and are listed among national historic sites endangered by this type of development.

Please understand that I oppose this type of activity in this area because I think that the area deserves better for the long term benefit of the community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Herbrand", written over a horizontal line.

John Herbrand

NBB-885

Pierre and Dominique Werbrouck-Samyn
341, Rogersville Rd
PO Box 807
Cerrillos, NM, 87010
505-424 1742

To: Mr. Jose Larranaga
County Review Committee Case Manager
102 Grant Avenue
Santa Fe, NM, 87501

Cerrillos, February 5, 2014

Re: Proposed Basalt Mining in La Bajada Mesa

Dear Mr. Larrañaga,

It has been brought to our attention that a hearing will take place on the above matter. Unfortunately we are traveling on the hearing day and cannot attend.

La Bajada Mesa is an important vista (view) point South of Santa Fe. The future of New Mexico does not lie in basalt mining but in tourism, technology, research, alternative energy and the promotion of cultural diversity. This is the reason why we came to live here, invested our savings and live a rural life close to nature.

We have a dude ranch and are artists. From our home we have a great view of La Bajada Mesa. Visitors (customers) to our dude ranch appreciate the view, the people attending art workshops love it and we are inspired by the view in our art. We attach hereto an artwork based on this view. We pay sales and income tax on our business as well as an annual property tax of about \$4,500 for which the county does not provide anything in return except the view; we have no children in education age, we live off the grid, and the county does not maintain Rogersville road.

Destroying this view would damage our business.

Moreover we learned that drinking water would be hauled from the Santa Fe County water supply to keep the dust down. We use only rainwater and during dry spells we would need to be supplied by the same water source as the mining operation. Considering the recent drought years, we conclude that using drinking water for dust control is a waste of scarce resources.

NBB- 886

The mine application estimates some additional income from sales tax, which is not credible. First of all, most construction companies are exempt of sales tax except on the final product and there a significant substitution effect as some sales will be diverted from other gravel pits. Moreover the cost to maintain the roads will exceed the amount of sales tax that would be "really" additional, if any.

Hence we find that mining in areas that have touristic attractiveness is a bad idea, and the New Mexico economy will not see any real impact of such mine as it will only reduce business in other mines. The economic growth effect will be negligible. It is a better strategy for the NM economy to protect its beauty and views to attract people (like us) willing to pay annual property taxes or tourism dollars to enjoy the view. This strategy has been successfully applied in other states as well as in Costa Rica, which now benefits from an important immigration boom of US retirees. Mining is an economic activity of the past.

Therefore, I recommend you do not approve such mining.

Thanking you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely



Pierre Werbrouck

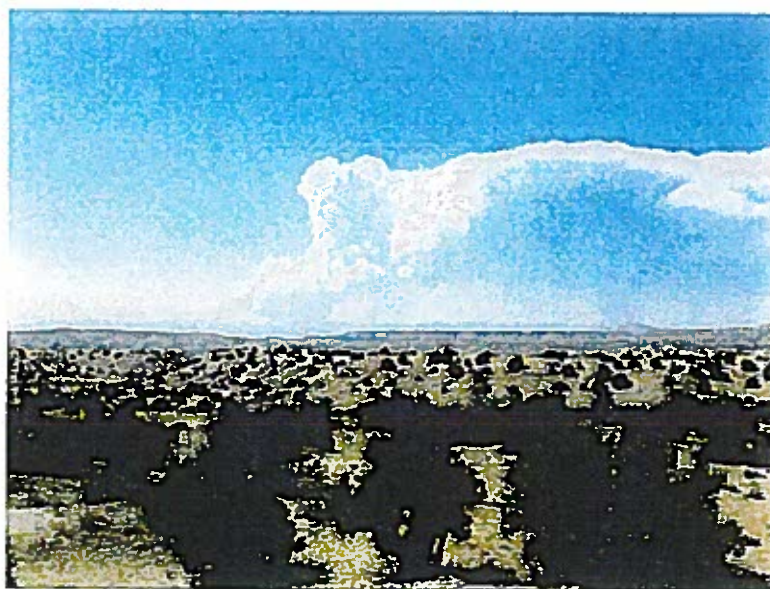


Dominique Samyn-Werbrouck

NBB-887



'La Bajada # 2' Acrylic and Venetian plaster on wood 40 x 40 inches.
 Part of the La Bajada Series.
 Work by Dominique Samyn-Werbrouck
www.awsam.com



NBB-888

Jose Larranaga

From: Robin Gurule
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 11:58 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: FW: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Categories: Red Category

From: Ruth Fisher [<mailto:rthfisher4@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 7:53 AM
To: Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Robert A. Anaya; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics; Liz Stefanics; Robin Gurule
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

We live not far from where the proposed strip mining project is planned for the La Bajada mesa area and **very much opposed to it.**

- From what we've read, the resources aren't needed and can be procured from the other two mining areas in Santa Fe and this mine is not necessary.
- If water for the project is taken from our water table, we will be short on supply and especially with drought conditions looming, this is a real concern.
- If water is trucked in, the Frontage Road will have too much traffic:
 - added expense of maintenance of the road will be needed
 - noise, exhaust fumes, dust and traffic congestion will increase
 - safety for children let off at the various bus stops on the Frontage Road will be compromised
- Noise from the mining operation will increase

We retired and moved here a few years ago for the peace and quiet, clean water and air, and less congested environment. This mining project will undoubtedly change all that and our friends who are also considering moving to Santa Fe for the same reasons, will probably change their minds.

Please stop this operation from occurring.

Ruth & Harry Fisher
37 Taylor Loop
Santa Fe, NM

Allan Sindelar
P.O. Box 696
Cerrillos, NM 87010
(505) 780-2738
als@positiveenergysolar.com

To the Editor with request for publication:

A private mining company named Rockology has applied for permits to create a strip mine near the Waldo I-25 exit at the top of La Bajada hill. The mine would remove up to 60 feet of the volcanic basalt layer from 50 acres of this NM cultural landmark. This rock would be crushed and removed for use in ready-mix concrete, asphalt, and base course for roadbuilding. Rockology has received a permit to haul purchased water by truck from the County facility near the state prison to the site for dust control, but the mine itself has not yet been approved by the County.

The applicants claim that a shortage of these materials necessitates the mine. However, the Caja Del Rio Quarry near the county landfill has a projected ten-year supply of basalt. Unlike the proposed Rockology mine, the Caja Del Rio Quarry is connected to a piped non-potable water system, so there is no need to haul water to the site.

The destruction of the Mesa does not even promise significant economic benefit to the county. Rockology's own study estimates only seven full-time employees, with no promise that these will be new or even local hires. Since there is no proven unmet demand for this gravel, these operations will be undercutting existing businesses and diluting the sales tax that the county is currently collecting.

Most of us have crested La Bajada hill and felt the satisfaction of seeing Santa Fe and the Sangres spread out before us. A strip mine at the entrance to our home region would be an unnecessary and permanent scar on our landscape. Only a substantial and sustained public outcry will stop this. You may add your voice at a County Commission hearing on February 20th at 4 pm. Physical presence at the meeting carries a lot of weight with our county officials.

Allan Sindelar

Madrid

NBB - 890

Jose Larranaga

From: Anne Nelson <annenelson@cybermesa.com>
nt: Friday, February 07, 2014 4:19 PM
Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

CDRC Members,

Please vote NO to the proposed new mining zone at La Bajada Mesa. I have been a resident of the Cerrillos area for 35 years, have raised a family here, driven untold times up La Bajada Hill feeling the majesty of it as a gateway to Santa Fe, remembering the amazing centuries-old history contained there. Pollution of all kinds – visual, noise, dust are not compatible with this pristine “Most Endangered” place. And the newly created Cerrillos Hills State Park deserves to have the area protected.

Thank-you,

Anne Nelson
505-473-2819
annenelson@cybermesa.com

2/7/2014

Matthew Eastwood
147 Old Windmill Trail
Cerrillos, NM 87010
505-467-9140
meastwood@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

My wife and I moved here three years ago after looking at locations all across the American West. We fell in love with the wide open views, the dark skies and most of all - the silence. We purchased property with a sweeping view of La Bajada Mesa and positioned our home specifically to take in the amazing natural view. Our home is now completed and living here is a dream come true for us.

We feel that the number one most important part of our home is our view and our quiet, open space. When our friends and family come to visit the first thing they all remark on is the beauty of La Bajada Mesa as seen from our back porch. After we finished building our home we refinanced our mortgage. The appraiser that came out to our property agreed, he felt that the view of La Bajada Mesa was instrumental in the strong value of our home and property. We're putting down our roots here, this is our dream come true.

We're now pregnant and expecting our first child this summer. The clean air, quiet evenings and beautiful views we've fallen in love with are our legacy to our child. We've dedicated ourselves as stewards of this land, not as users but as conservators. We have built our home and maintain our property with principles of environmental responsibility toward preserving the land as much as possible in its primitive state. While individual land owners strive to protect and preserve our County, why should corporations be allowed to destroy the air quality, the water quality, and the sound quality of our County in favor of short-term profits for only themselves?

Practical reasons to deny the request by Rockology to mine basalt on La Bajada Mesa include:

- There already exist other readily available sources of road-grade basalt within Santa Fe County.
- The local watershed is not able to sustain the additional usage without long-term detrimental effects to the watershed and its viability to permanent residents.
- Waldo Canyon Road is not a traditional "road" at all. It is a crude dirt and gravel trail passable only by high-clearance 4x4 trucks and acceptable only for ranch access by land owners. It will not support the proposed traffic for long before deteriorating and requiring constant rebuilding by County Transportation services.

NB13-892

- The type of mining Rockology is proposing (surface, open-pit mining) will cause large amounts of dust to become airborne. La Bajada Mesa has some of the highest sustained wind in all of Santa Fe County. These two facts will lead to an overall and measurable decrease in the air quality of Santa Fe County throughout the life of the proposed project.

- The type of mining Rockology is proposing (surface, open-pit mining) will require high-powered lighting which will be visible for miles in every direction, destroying the beautiful dark skies of Santa Fe County.

For the reasons listed above, the proposed mining project on La Bajada Mesa should not be approved. It is our hope that the clean air, quiet evenings and beautiful views afforded to residents and visitors to Santa Fe County shall persevere for decades to come. We look forward to your informed decision on this matter.

Regards,



Matthew Eastwood

NBB-893

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 4:34 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Fwd: La Bajada Mesa

Categories: Red Category

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

----- Original Message -----

Subject: La Bajada Mesa
From: JOHNSON SOMATICAN <jsotican@dishmail.net>
To: Penny Ellis-Green <pengreen@co.santa-fe.nm.us>
CC:

Dear Ms. Ellis-Green:

My husband and I are residents of Rancho San Marcos on Highway 14 south of Santa Fe city limits. We are aware of the application by Rockology/Buena Vista Estates to obtain water and mining rights for La Bajada Mesa.

We are seriously opposed to approval of these rights for several reasons:

- New Mexico has been under serious drought conditions for several years now. Residents and small businesses along Hwy 14 depend on an aquifer for clean water supply. The La Bajada mining project will consume vast amounts of water which would impact the level of our aquifer. We cannot support a project that would affect our water supply.
- Dust will be created, even if water is used to lessen it. The Hwy 14 areas south of Hwy 599 down through Cerrillos and Madrid are already subject to blowing dust due to high westerly winds. (The winds we experience are predominantly from the west/southwest and higher than those in the City as there are no real wind breaks.)
- Property values will decrease due to the negative impacts of a mine on the mesa and to our water supply.
- The truck traffic will have an impact on the area roads that would likely be used - Hwy 14, Hwy 45 (right through Bonanza Creek Ranch), the East Frontage Rd. and the Waldo/Canyon Rd. interchange at I-25.
- Residents of the Village of La Bajada will also be impacted by the dust, mining operations and truck traffic.
- As there are other gravel mines in the area, there is no necessity to have yet another one.
- The La Bajada mesa is beautiful geologic area, and an attractive visual "entrance" northbound to Santa Fe.

We are hopeful that you support our position regarding the application, and that that it will be turned down.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
John and Diane Somatican

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 7:13 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Fwd: Please Reject Rockology La Bajada Mesa Mining Proposal

Categories: Red Category

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Please Reject Rockology La Bajada Mesa Mining Proposal
From: trevoroche@aol.com
To:
CC:

Dear Ms. Green (for Santa Fe County Commissioners)

I hope the enclose letter, entitled "Rockology Gravel Mining Proposal for La Bajada Mesa, Santa Fe County" is appropriately expressed for your agency's requirements , and is neither too long nor too short.

What the county commissioners, the final arbitrators, decide about the Rockology mining proposal for La Bajada Mesa could determine the long-term future of the Galisteo Basin of Santa Fe County, as well as the future of the county as a whole.

I sincerely hope that entreaties from four state lawmakers--Sen. Peter Wirth, Rep. Brian Egolf, Sen. Phil Griego, and Rep. Stephanie Garcia--appealing to the commission to reject the La Bajada Mesa mining proposal, will be seriously considered.

I am truly grateful to have lawmakers who are this forward looking and who understand the extraordinary threat to water security faced by our country of Santa Fe and the rest of New Mexico. We need decision makers everywhere to frame development and other programs through the lens of water scarcity. What we call development today is in fact the opposite; it is mainly tearing up the land, spreading dust, increasing traffic, squandering water, wasting energy. True development, IMO, is developing healthy drainage and catchment systems within watersheds while enabling them through ecologically smart means like conservation, cottage industry, horticulture and eco-tourism, etc., to be sustainable and resilient.

Trevor Burrowes

2836 State Highway 14 N
Cerrillos, NM 87010
505-455-7926
4 February 2014

Rockology Gravel Mining Proposal for La Bajada Mesa, Santa Fe County To Whom It Concerns:

Rockology Gravel Mining Proposal for La Bajada Mesa (by Waldo Canyon exit off I-25) should be rejected. With better alternatives elsewhere for mining, the community/state/national treasure that is La Bajada Mesa, being considred for national monument designation, should be exempted from any mining projects. Some major reasons are as follows:

- The Galisteo Basin, to which La Bajada Mesa is the gateway, is a watershed. Our local residents have been attending workshops on the nature of the watershed, and how to benefit from it through catchment and drainage projects of various sorts. Three development projects are proposed at a time well before a coherent plan (see the the Galisteo Watershed Conservation Initiative [GWCI] url link below) for the Galisteo Basin can be worked out. The three endangering projects

within the watershed are: using Lamy as an oil transportation hub; gravel mining at La Bajada Mesa; and gold mining in the Ortiz area along Highway 14.

- There is no way that any gravel operation lasting 25 years (the period proposed) and needing a steady supply of water can be helpful to a drought ridden region, also given the fact that the drought is likely, with increased global warming, to be open ended.
- The prevailing cultural pressures for development are based on an outdated and dangerous assumption that the right of a few to make money outweighs the right of people and animals to a healthy environment. The rights of nature is a concept embraced by aborigines in many places, but only a handful of modern jurisdictions. That makes it incumbent on the community to plead and bargain for rights that should be uncontestable.
- If business-as-usual is based on the notion that growth must be unlimited, then business-as-usual is a destructive and unsustainable paradigm that must be examined.
- The amount of money the county could gain from the project is outweighed by its implied costs to the county. These costs include (but are not limited to) road degradation, water misallocation, air pollution, health costs, property value decline, etc.. There would also be the economic costs of despoiling a potentially enhanced cultural asset known as the Galisteo Basin.
- This project is perhaps universally opposed in our community, and its approval would rob the community of its sense of place, its cultural and economic potential, and, broadly speaking, its quality of life.
- While this project should not be allowed for any number of reasons, it needs, at the very least, to be put on hold pending a comprehensive community plan for the basin being completed (see GWCI url below).
- Rather than constant rearguard action to stave off unwelcome developments, the community now sees the need for proactive planning for the Galisteo Basin, focusing on its assets, requiring asset mapping and coordination. Severe energy shortage (which, barring very harmful last-ditch fossil fuel excavation like fracking, is the situation we actually face today) will require a higher level of conservation for the region, and groups like the Madrid Cultural Project and others are well poised to plan and promote implementation of such needed changes.
- http://sfct.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Galisteo_Watershed1.pdf

The Galisteo Watershed Initiative provides a proactive tool for guiding sustainable future development in the Galisteo Basin, a critical point for connecting green infrastructure within the state of New Mexico and beyond. I hope La Bajada Mesa is where we turn from reactive development that is not sustainable to a proactive development that is.

Sincerely,

Trevor Burrowes, MFA

(My wife, Sandra Tacang, of the same address, also endorses this letter.)

PS: An addendum below highlights the prospect for increased recycling of glass and plastic for use as aggregate extender, while reducing the strain on our landfills. This would reduce the need for gravel mining.

Mitigating the Effects of Gravel Mining upon Rural New Mexico

Rural Conservation Alliance (excerpts)

Resistance to change can be a fatal obstacle in New Mexico, whether the resistance is from the government or private businesses with vested interests in the status quo.

NBB - 897

(Clovis Airforce base): The base could not find a local use for crushed glass that was processed on site, so it donates the glass to a firm in Lubbock, Texas, paying the shipping costs.

Savings in Solid Waste (through Albuquerque's Recycling Program): costs @ \$15.00/ton

☛ Total savings: \$12,055,300.00

In a scenario directly related to glass reuse, Santa Fe County could use twice as much glass as what is now recycled throughout the County for road projects. Approximately 20,000 tons of gravel are purchased for County road projects. If the solid waste facility could recover the full amount of domestic glass generated, estimated at 5,248 tons (Table 2), it could reduce its purchases of gravel by the 2,000 tons used for county projects (valued at \$38,000) and sell the remaining material to other road construction entities. The facility's recycling coordinator noted in conversation that a business could take the lead in marketing the materials for road projects in the region, thus providing a business opportunity in the private sector.

The NM Recycling Coalition, composed of staff from waste management facilities in New Mexico, works with NMDOT's State Materials Bureau and NMED on a Recycling Team in a joint effort to use recyclable materials. Other organizations may also provide partnership opportunities.

Sustainable Communities/ZERI-NM is a non-government organization that creates environmentally sustainable applications of science and technology.

<http://www.raintreecounty.com/Recycle.html>

NBB - 898

Jose Larranaga

From: susan selbin <sselbin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 9:49 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Importance: High
Categories: Red Category

I oppose the proposed mining zone to be located at La Bajada Mesa.

Rather than open the area to mining, the area should be preserved permanently.

The amount of water needed is not clear. The application claims a total of 710,000 gallons a year or 2.19 acre feet, which would not be sufficient to accomplish the suppression of dust.

The submittal does not address water for reclamation. A letter from the Office of the State Engineer notes that since certain documents were not provided, a technical analysis was not performed. And the OSE appears to toss the issue back to the discretion of the county.

The 2008 application, along with theirs of 2005, had been withdrawn because of uncertain water sources and perhaps because County Staff was then recommending (as reported in the New Mexican March 25, '08) "denial of the permit based on a 'cadre' of issues" These included impacts upon historical and archeological resources.

Opening a mining zone in La Bajada Mesa would be a mistake. Please do not permit this action.

Thank you,
Susan Selbin
2431 Northwest Cir NW
Albuquerque 87104

NIBB - 799

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 1:11 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Fwd: La Bajada Mesa

Categories: Red Category

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

----- Original Message -----

Subject: La Bajada Mesa
From: carrie <carrie@sculptures.com>
To: Penny Ellis-Green <pengreen@co.santa-fe.nm.us>
CC:

Ms Penny Ellis-Green,

I live in the Rancho San Marcos subdivision of Highway 14 south of I-25, and wanted you to know that I am opposed to the proposed gravel mining at La Bajada. Many of us are concerned about quality of life in our area, the depreciation of our property values, air quality and most importantly, damage to our aquifer and water table. We ask you, please, do not permit this operation.

Thank you,

Carrie Quade
466 San Marcos Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87508
www.sculptures.com
www.nmartspa.com
505 474 7333



Turquoise Trail Association
PO Box 303
Sandia Park, NM 87047
www.TurquoiseTrail.org
trail@turquoisetrail.org

Thursday, February 6, 2014

Jose Larranaga, Santa Fe County,

The Turquoise Trail Association, (TTA) stewards of The Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway, also known as State Highway 14, strongly oppose the Buena Vista / Rockology application to mine at La Bajada Mesa!

With tourism maintaining a large part of our state and local economy, this mining operation within another scenic landmark does not fit into our states best interests, long term or short term.

The far reaching La Bajada Mesa viewscape is important to the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway and New Mexico tourism and it deserves to be protected. Strip mining of this historic, scenic and culturally significant land should not be allowed. There is already a mine nearby providing similar services and materials. In a time of serious water shortages, droughts and reduced hydrological resources, this operation is wasteful and unsustainable. The proposed trucking of water into this site at the scale of the proposed operation is a grossly inefficient use of our County water resources.

This letter follows our communication sent to Jose Larranaga in April 2008, protesting the 2008 Rockology mining application.

Respectfully,
Kevin Box
President of Turquoise Trail Association

NRR - ani

Jose Larranaga

From: Amanda Bramble <ampersandproject@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 5:45 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Stephen C. Ross; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Categories: Red Category

Dear Jose Larranaga,

Please don't allow a mine to move in on La Bajada Mesa! There is already a great place for gravel with the Caja del Rio gravel mine. My understanding is that Santa Fe wants to be sustainable. Let's go with what we are doing right. If we have to have a landfill, best to focus our extraction in the place we need to dig out anyway. And the existing mine uses reclaimed water. It's a good set up.

Mining on La Bajada will be visible from my property in Cerrillos. The dust will contribute to the already hazardous blowing dust problem around the prison. It's also an important wildlife resource. All the explosions and trucks will destroy the serenity of the mesa. And let's save our water for our community!

Please don't let this happen.

Thanks,

Amanda Bramble

PO box 773 Cerrillos, NM 87010

www.ampersandproject.org

Jose Larranaga

From: 12stdish@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 6:50 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics; Robin Gurule; Penny Ellis-Green
Subject: Re:CDRD Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. Larranaga,

I am writing to express my personal opposition to the subject application for gravel mining on LaBajada Mesa. I am president of the Amigos de Cerrillos Hills State Park, and am reasonably sure that all the members of the Board of Directors of the Amigos agree with my concerns, but do not have time to get their formal approval before the deadline to get this information to your office.

My concerns relative to the Cerrillos Hills State Park are related to the impact this operation would have on the current and future ability of the Park to meet the needs of our visitors. The dust generated by the mining and crushing of rock would be released directly upwind of the Park and will settle on the Park land and facilities. This will make the Park not only less attractive to visitors, but potentially medically harmful. The proposed hauling of water likely will go through the village of Cerrillos which will pose traffic issues to visitors and make for a less friendly experience. The Board has discussed promoting access to the Park from I-25 since the interstate carries much more traffic than State Route 14. Having a gravel mining and crushing industrial operation as the first thing potential visitors encounter would seriously hamper that method of access. While the application apparently calls for a limited time use of the area, any potential reclamation is likely to leave a large pit for decades since there is no real surface soil to use for fill.

On a more personal level, I am seriously concerned about the proposed continuing use of county water for on-going industrial uses in a for-profit business. Ordinary citizens would obtain valid water rights to provide the necessary water for a business. I also have some doubts that the amount of water requested is anywhere near adequate. If they are only mining one acre at a time, the water would provide something like 0.1 inch of dust suppression per day which would be woefully inadequate in our quite dry climate. This assumes that no water is to be used for dust suppression in the crushing operations which may well generate more dust than the actual mining. The dust suppression plan is inadequate.

I urge the rejection of the subject application for these and other reasons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Boyd Christensen, President
Amigos de Cerrillos Hills State Park

Jose Larranaga

From: Thomas Parker <tomparker87@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 3:23 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates, Inc. & Rockology Limited, LLC
Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. Larrañaga,

This e-mail reflects my concerns about the subject application, why I request that the CDRC reject it.

The development proposal as it now stands involves two substitutions that are of dubious benefit to the residents of Santa Fe County: the replacement of some gravel truck miles with water truck miles; and the replacement of gravel washed with non-potable water with gravel washed with potable water. The applicants assert that the proposed mine will reduce gravel haul distances compared to current sources. Their evidence consists of the locations of the quarries. But even if this is true to some extent, the proposal will require significant water truck traffic, more if the water use estimates are incorrect. Surely the CDRC should require an analysis of these offsetting effects.

Gravel produced by the Caja del Rio quarry is washed with piped non-potable water. Why should the County approve a proposal that would substitute gravel washed with hauled potable water, at least until such time as the Caja del Rio gravel resource is exhausted?

The monthly distribution of water use in the proposal appears to assume significant rainfall for the months June through October (40,000 gallons per month for those months, versus 140,000 gallons per month March through May). If true, certainly the project peak water use (in times of drought) is underestimated. And in times of drought, the surface water component of the County water system supply also can be expected to be diminished. It is not apparent that water required for reclamation has been included. The truck traffic analysis suggested above should consider peak water use during a drought of reasonable severity and duration, unless the applicant is willing to commit to a cessation of operations at such times.

Consideration should be given to the imposition of a reclamation bond to ensure that some rudimentary level of reclamation actually occurs, and it should incorporate realistic costs for hauled water and the possibility of some degree of failure on the initial attempt.

Finally, I am concerned about what appears from the letter to be a cavalier "willing and able" attitude on the part of the County water system. I presume that actually there is some real consideration and analysis behind the County letter. But at the very least, there are the policy questions of whether industrial use should be accorded the same priority as community and residential use, particularly in times of drought; and whether the County should commit to whatever level of supply the project requires over a 25-year time frame. There should be a stated contract amount for a stated short term (e.g, 5 years), subject to renewal by mutual agreement. Does the County really believe that it knows what its water supply situation will be in 25 years?

Thank you for your consideration of this.

Sincerely,
Tom Parker

Jose Larranaga

From: Tracy Ragan <tracy.ragan@openmakesoftware.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 8:33 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC,
Categories: Red Category

This letter expresses my deep concern about the proposed mining of La Bajada Mesa. I do NOT support a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa or mining anywhere along our "tourist" corridor. As a homeowner in the Cerrillos/Madrid area, property values for private homes and ranches is my biggest concern. I'm OK with change, but to re-zone this area to allow industrial activity in an area that supports private homes and heavy tourism is simply the wrong decision for Santa Fe County as a whole, not to mention the water issues that this will cause. Supporting efforts that increase tourism and protects our home values should be the counties primary focus - and this is a BIG diversion from that focus.

Please to not support this effort.

Tracy Ragan

505.424.6437

Cerrillos home owner.

N1122 - 9715



THE SAN MARCOS ASSOCIATION

January 9, 2014

To: Santa Fe County CDRC

From: Walter Wait
President
San Marcos Association
P.O. Box 722
Cerrillos, New Mexico 87010

Dear Sirs:

The Proposed La Bajada "Rockology" Gravel Mine is a bad idea for Santa Fe County

The San Marcos Association opposes the Rockology mining application and recommends that the CDRC either recommend to the BCC that (a) that the rezoning application be denied because of the arguments provided below, or (b) Since the proposed mine clearly falls under the category of "DCI" in the new County Code, any action concerning the application should be delayed until such time as the new rules governing such projects are in place.

Our concerns fall into four general categories (a) water (b) traffic, The County Land Use Code, and (c) view shed.

Water

The February 3, 2014 New Mexican states that "the proposed mine would have two 10,000 gallon water holding tanks, one for dust control, and one for fire suppression". The water would be supplied through purchase of County water at .02 cents per gallon and would be supplied by the county "tap" on Highway 14.

The 2012 State Engineer Application to transfer three acre feet of water from agricultural use to sand and gravel mining lists the new use as "sand and gravel washing".

NBB-906

If the proposed mine requires water to wash the gravel, this is different from "dust control". Where will this water come from? Also from the County's fragile drinking water supply? How much water would be needed?

Let us assume that the initially requested three acre feet is adequate for the mines proposed activities. Three acre feet equals 978,000 gallons. Assuming that the mine would utilize large tankers, the 8.1 million pounds of water would be divided into 270 30,000 pound loads. 3,500 gallons of water equals a 29,190 lb. load. This equals .73 trucks every day of the year. Assuming that the water trucks would not run every day but five days a week, we can observe that in all likelihood, two trucks would pull up to the pump every work day.

The trucks would take 1.2 hours to fill assuming that the Highway 14 delivery rate is one cubic foot per second or 44.9 gallons. Two trucks would then tie up the highway 14 station for 2.4 hours every day.

How would this affect the County's drinking water haulers? Many residents of the San Marcos District depend upon this pump to haul drinking water. Would these property tax payers have to line up expecting a one hour delay before they could reach the pump? Too put this industrial use in perspective, it would be the equivalent of 3,260 one ton water hauling pickups.

If these trucks are diverting 3,500 gallons of water per load, what affect will it have on the down stream water pressure? Remember, this is a twenty five year project - well beyond the County's planned build-out of the SDA-2 area. The expected extension of the County water line to points south of the Elementary school, is built into the long term plans of the County water system. Would large scale industrial water use curtail the system's ability to meet domestic demand?

What is to prevent the owners of the property to sell fifty acre plots "with gravel mining potential" once the first mine is brought on line? What would that do over the next 25 years?

In times of drought, would there be a "priority call"? Could the County force industrial accounts to shut down?

Two heavy trucks a day carrying water to the mine must be added to the proposed eight gravel trucks.

The value of the 978,000 gallons per year at .02 cents is \$19,560. Is this sum sufficient to pay for the wear and tear on the County roads that these water trucks would traverse? Clearly the Traffic Impact Analysis did not take into account effects on roads that the gravel trucks and water trucks would have to use once they left the site. Would these trucks all move through Cerrillos? If not, where would they go?

The County should enact legislation to limit water consumption to domestic uses where the proposed end use lies outside of the County Water System's service area. County Residents have paid for the water rights that the County uses for its water system.

NBB-907

They should not be utilized for for-profit commercial enterprises unless, like new subdivisions, they pay for any infrastructure (including roads, road repair, pipelines, and water rights) needed for the county to recover its 25 year costs of operation.

Development of County Wide Impact

Since conditions change from year to year, the the County should not enter into any long term agreement with any DCI project. Any mining project should be re-licensed annually, and only after careful inspection and evaluation of it's operation and impacts on the County. The County should be very concerned over the possibility that this 5000 acre entry-way to Santa Fe could become an industrial rubbish bin in twenty years.

Under Santa Fe County's new Land Use Code, The proposed mine falls under Chapter 11, Developments of Countywide Impact,. While the new code has not been put into effect as yet due to the absence of a zoning map, the CDRC should not approve any proposed development with a proposed twenty five year life until these new "DCI" requirements have been put into place.

Analysis of the Traffic Analysis Data

The application states that the "traffic analysis" conducted by the County states that minimal impacts to County Road 57 from 12 to 16 trucks a day. It does not include the number of trucks that would traverse the road from public and private haulers not owned by the mine. The New Mexican stated that the proposed mine would extract 250,000 tons of material every year. If this is the case, and assuming 15 ton loads, then 16,666 trucks would be needed annually to deliver the material. Rather than 12 to 16 trucks a day that figures out to 45.66 trucks per day (if the trucks ran 365 days a year). That is almost 100 trucks per day if you count empty return trips and equally heavy water trucks.

Also, 250,000 tons times 25 years equal 6.25 million tons of material not the 1.26 million tons proposed. If this is true, what effect would there be on reclamation. Would it require bull dozing tthe surface of he entire 5000 acres to fill the three holes? The property is for sale, so in 25 years, there would not be any surface to fill the hole. Does the county want a 5000 acre dust bowl? is there any reclamation plan? Is there any bonding required? Both of these are required in the New County Code.

The application states that between 12 and 16 trucks a day would haul material from the mine. This, I assume does not include return trips. Gravel is often mined and stockpiled. Road Maintenance contractors and County crews use this stockpiled material as purchased. This could require fleets of heavy trucks to traverse not only County Rd 57, but the I-25 frontage road and County Road 45 (Bonanza Creek Road) for extended periods of time. Since the County is charged with maintaing these roads,

NBB-908

the Traffic Analysis should have taken into account the costs associated with increased heavy traffic over a twenty five year period. The impact caused by heavy trucks constantly moving along Bonanza Creek Road, for example, would have a great impact on the County Residents living along the road and on the Bonanza Creek Ranch Movie Productions. business. Bonanza Creek Road is already a dangerous road with its many difficult curves. Placing additional heavy vehicles on it would be an accident waiting to happen. The road already has a weight limit on it that is persistently ignored by gravel trucks operators wishing to cut miles and time off their deliveries.

View-Shed

Assuming that 4 cubic yards of Basalt equals apx. one ton, and 250,000 tons x 25 years equals 6,250,000 tons, then a 60 foot deep pit would grow to be 1,350 feet by 600 feet. That could translate into a .37 mile long cut. The question remains, how and with what would such a scar be reclaimed even if reclamation was an on-going condition of the open pit operation. Once a mine is in place, will this become an invitation for other mines to come forward? This would appear to be the historic pattern. The scars left by Gold Field Mining are still clearly visible 25 years after the fact. The Scars left by mining in the 19th century are still visible in the Silver Hills. Do we wish to present another scar to visitors to Santa Fe?

Walter Wait
President
San Marcos Association

NBB-909

Jose Larranaga

From: Pam Gilchrist <pamgilchrist1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 2:33 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC,
Categories: Red Category

I do NOT support a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa because, among the many concerns, the amount of water needed is not clear.

Santa Fe County must develop a policy that does not by default provide water to all Developments of Countywide Impact including oil gas, mining, CAFO's etc.. Hauled water is not adequate for long term mining operations. When a proposed mine is sited well (which the Buena Vista / Rockology isn't) it should have its own long-term water supply on site so as to eliminate the impacts of water hauling that includes traffic hazards as well as additional carbonization and infrastructure impacts from heavy trucks. The County must not allow them to evade needed acquisition of commercial industrial water rights.

The application claims a total of 710,000 gallons a year or 2.19 acre feet, which is insufficient to accomplish the suppression of dust. Even this amount would generate thousands of heavy water haul truck deliveries a year and contribute to deterioration of our state and county roads, the repair of which the taxpayer would have to subsidize.

This is also not a good location in regard to the county strategy to allow growth only where it is wanted and timely.

It is not in the public interest to use County water to open up an unsustainable relatively short-term operation that would degrade a long recognized historic and cultural landscape.

Pamela Gilchrist
Convener Peace and Social Concerns
Santa Fe Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
3466 Cerrillos Rd., C-2
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Jose Larranaga

From: Pam Gilchrist <pamgilchrist1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 2:33 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC,
Categories: Red Category

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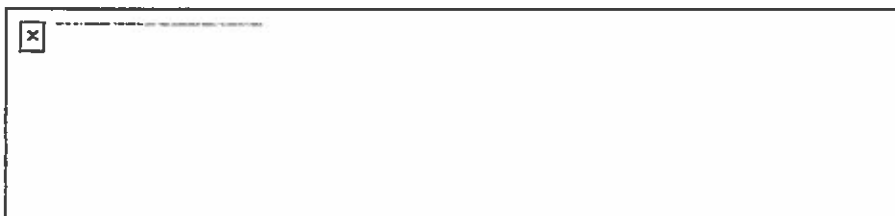
This is also not a good location in regard to the county strategy to allow growth only where it is wanted and timely.

It is not in the public interest to use County water to open up an unsustainable relatively short-term operation that would degrade a long recognized historic and cultural landscape.

Pamela Gilchrist
Convener Peace and Social Concerns
Santa Fe Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
3466 Cerrillos Rd., C-2
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Jose Larranaga

From: P. Brown <brownp52@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 11:43 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC,
Attachments: February B.doc
Categories: Red Category



February 8, 2014

To Jose Larranaga,

There are 25 people in the Las Candelas de los Cerrillos community association. None of us wants this gravel pit put in at the end of CR 57. We want you to know, we strongly oppose disturbing the scenic qualities of La Bajada mesa with a gravel pit. There is already one less than a half-mile away that is an eyesore. We do not want the increased traffic on the road, the light pollution nor the blowing dust pollution. We ask that you do not approve this gravel pit permit. No one in our village wants it.

Thank you,
Todd Brown, president LCDLC

Jose Larranaga

From: Andy Bramble <andybuilds@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 11:14 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: I oppose the La Bajada Mesa Mine

Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr Larranaga,

I oppose the La Bajada Mesa mine. It is poorly sited in an archeological/geologically significant area and would be a terrible use of water, especially considering climate change and the drought New Mexico still experiences.

Please enact a moratorium for La Bajada Mesa.

Thank you,

**Andrew Bramble
36 White Wolf
Cerrillos, NM 87010**

Jose Larranaga

From: Barbara Layton Rucker <blaytonrucker@cnsr.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2014 3:29 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: application for a zone change by Buena Vista Estates, Inc. and Rockology Limited LLC

Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. Larranga,

My husband and I oppose the application for a zone change from residential/agricultural to a zone that would allow strip mining for gravel on the La Bajada Mesa.

. Our primary concern is air quality. All you have to do to see what a difference this kind of mining has on air quality is to drive anywhere near one a typically windy spring day.

. Even if our county had the water resources to support good faith efforts to keep down the dust, the air quality would be diminished.

. In the interests of all our children who will have even less water available than we do today, I think allowing water use for the purpose of the destruction of yet another fragile New Mexico landscape is immoral.

Please convey my wishes to my county commissioner Mr. Robert Anaya and to his colleagues on the board.

Respectfully yours,
Barbara Layton Rucker
40 Ron's Road
Santa Fe, NM 87508

19 Copper Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87508
2/10/14

Jose Larranaga
Case Manager
Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larranaga:

I live (and am a homeowner) on the north side of the Cerrillos Hills in the sub-division of Rancho Alegre. It is very upsetting to me that the county would even consider this application for mining on La Bajada mesa.

Right off the top of my head, I can think of a few major concerns that I and my neighbors would have, being directly affected by mining in this area:

1. WATER: Our water supply is tenuous at best. We all have private wells, and some of these wells have recently gone dry. We certainly don't need a commercial enterprise sucking up more water from the reserves near the prison, where a lot of people in our area already go to get their water.
2. DUST: We appreciate the clean air and sky we have out here. The dust blown our way from this facility would be devastating to our area, and ruin our quality of life.
3. NOISE POLLUTION: Where we live, it is so quiet, you can hear a pin drop. It's part of the serenity of living here. All we need is the constant sound of mining the rock!
4. RUINING the LANDSCAPE: As you drive up I-25 towards Santa Fe, do you really want tourists to see the mauling of the gateway to our city, off La Bajada hill?
5. TRUCKING: The amount of trucking needed for this enterprise would greatly affect our roads and traffic. If the trucks go down Bonanza Creek Rd., it would invite disaster. As it is, when the roads are repaired for pot holes there, the repairs hardly last a season. What would happen with a lot more heavy traffic??

I will tell you that my neighbors and I are extremely concerned about this application and vehemently oppose it. And, we will fight to keep our area pristine and without industry. We've rallied against oil and gas in 2007, and against the gold mine in the 1980s, and we will do it again, if we have to.

Please reject this mining application and be good stewards of our land.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gail Buono
Board member of the San Marcos Association

Cc: Penny Ellis-Green
Steven Ross
Robert A. Anaya
Daniel Mayfield
Miguel M. Chavez
Kathy Holian
Liz Stefanics

NARB-915

Jose Larranaga

From: Michael Madden <mikemadden52@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 6:46 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

CDRC and County Commissioners:

The Turquoise Trail Preservation Trust urges you to vote against the Waldo Canyon (Buena Vista) project.

Preservation of the view shed is THE main element of the Trust's mission. This type of mining would disturb the view shed of the La Bajada escarpment. Gross disturbance to the land will diminish the capacity to appreciate this spacial link to the past. Retaining an undisturbed view shed is essential for preserving this unique historical southwestern gem that lies within Santa Fe County.

In addition, Santa Fe County Water Utilities (SFCU) has expressed a willingness and ability "to provide bulk [hailed] water services for the Waldo Canyon (Buena Vista) project" thus allowing Buena Vista "to pick up water at their discretion, from the Santa Fe County Utility dispensing facility . . . off NM Highway 14." This concerns the Trust because of the draw down of precious ground water for dust mitigation purpose as well as increased truck traffic on our treasured Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway.

Mike Madden
President, Turquoise Trail Preservation Trust(TTPT)

Jose Larranaga

From: Charly Drobeck <kebord1@cybermesa.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 7:49 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Mining on La Bajada Mesa

Categories: Red Category

Hello Mr. Larranaga:

Please take note that I am a citizen of New Mexico, and I have resided here for most of my adult life.

The idea of letting Buena Vista/Rockology LLC strip mine on La Bajada Mesa is against many things I hold dear, and I hope you will consider NOT allowing this to go forward.

The reasons are multiple, among them being the likely degradation of an area that has historical, environmental and cultural value. A basalt gravel mine is redundant, given that there are several in this area to supply these materials, and this mesa should be preserved for its beauty and maintained for future generations.

Given how strongly Santa Fe relies on tourism dollars, imagine the scar a strip mine will leave on this scenic gateway that leads thousands of tourists up this amazing hill from the south. Please know that I, as a citizen, oppose this possibility.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this!

Charly "Charly" Drobeck
Tesuque, NM

Jose Larranaga

From: Nomi Green <nomipgreen@gmail.com> on behalf of Nomi Green <nomigreen@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 8:20 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Kathy S. Holian; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC,
Categories: Red Category

For all the the reason listed below please do not approve mining on La Bajada.

Thank you,
Nomi Green

PRESERVATION

--La Bajada Mesa, listed by the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance as a Most Endangered Place, is the gateway to the city of Santa Fe and needs to be a protected cultural landscape. The arts, including paintings, drawings, pottery, photographs and films attest to the profound significance of La Bajada Mesa to New Mexico's culture and economy.

--The current owners have no protected rights to demand a rezoning as they purchased the property with the current agricultural/residential zoning in place. The County has no obligation to enhance the value of the property (which is also for sale) to the detriment of the County and State as a whole.

IMPACTS

--Mining the Mesa would ruin the geological integrity--the grandeur of this oceanic Gateway along I-25 into Santa Fe & Waldo Canyon Road, the road leads into the Galisteo basin park lands, a sustainable and growing economic resource.

--Mining in this site would result in environmental and cultural degradation of a landscape that has been historically, culturally and environmentally significant to New Mexico for hundreds of years.

--Development of such an industry poorly sited on an otherwise open landscape would result in impacts including increased pollution from carbon emissions and fugitive dust from multiple crushers, conveyors and heavy industrial traffic, along with blasting and night lighting.

--Mining in this location would not only negatively impact the Gateway vista from I-25 and Waldo Canyon Road--the western access to the Cerrillos Hills State Park--but would be a blight from the higher elevations of the trails that lead from the Cerrillos Hills State Park on BLM lands up Grand Central Mt. and from other recognized scenic vistas from the south and east.

--No visual impact report has been done for views from I-25, Waldo Canyon Road, the higher trails above the Cerrillos Hills State park, NM 14, and residential areas.

--The New Mexico State Parks, through the "Cerrillos Hills/Galisteo Basin State Park Feasibility Study" in 2006 concluded that the best access to the future state park would be from the I-25 corridor. An intensive expanding mine in this location along Waldo Canyon Road would have a discouraging impact upon a significant number of park visitors encountering unanticipated industrial activities, including the trucks on the road and the visual impacts of the mine itself.

--There is no need for another basalt gravel mine in the County or another gravel mining operation off of I-25 as there are several existing gravel mines within reasonable proximity that can provide these materials to Rockology itself, an Albuquerque based company.

--Reclamation would be next to impossible after stripping some 20 feet of basalt. There is little surface topsoil to set aside for reclamation. There are no strong standards to insure that reclamation would be a success and there is the likelihood that what would be left behind would be an endless source of dust.

WATER

Hauled water should not be considered adequate for long term mining operations. Santa Fe County should develop a policy that does not by default provide water to all Developments of Countywide Impact including oil and gas, mining, CAFO's etc. and not allow them to evade needed acquisition of commercial / industrial water rights. When a proposed mine is sited well (which the Buena Vista / Rockology isn't) it should have its own long-term water supply on site so as to eliminate the impacts of water hauling that includes traffic hazards as well as additional carbonization and infrastructure impacts from heavy trucks.

--Precedence? With a precedent set for mining the Mesa, if a mining company were to buy any or all of the remaining thousands of acres that are for sale on the international market, what then would become the county's obligations in 1) allowing further mining to the new corporate owners and, 2) supplying precious water resources for the extractions?

--Because hauling water for needed dust control is expensive, and because the company may be underestimating the amount needed, it may be they simply will not keep the dust contained, and especially if state air quality enforcement resources prove inadequate in providing oversight.

--Can Buena Vista / Rockology be trusted to spend money on sufficient dust control? Contrary to Rockology's application of 2008 which claimed that the mined materials were needed for the Railrunner construction project, it was revealed by the press that NMDOT already had secured all the materials they would need. Their true intention appeared to be to start a 50 acre operation until at least 2020. Why should we trust them now in 2014 to go to the extra expense needed to haul sufficient water for dust control?

--The acre feet of water suggested by Buena Vista (2.19) is woefully insufficient to accomplish the intended uses, which in their application does not include reclamation.

--The amount of water needed is not clear. The application claims a total of 710,000 gallons a year or 2.19 acre feet, which we think would be woefully insufficient to accomplish the suppression of dust. Even this amount would generate thousands of heavy water haul truck passes a year and contribute to deterioration of our state and county roads, the repair of which the taxpayer would have to subsidize.

--In keeping with the county strategy to allow growth only where it is wanted and timely, this is also not a good location.

--It is not in the public welfare to use County water to open up an unsustainable relatively short-term operation that would degrade a long recognized historic and cultural landscape--a landscape that can otherwise contribute sustainably to the county's economic welfare through the tourist industry.

SPECULATION

--The current owners have no protected rights to demand a rezoning for the extractive industry as they purchased the property with the current agricultural/residential zoning in place. The County has no obligation to enhance the value of the property by shifting its economic worth from the value of an acre to the cubic yard.

--The property is for sale on the international market. Buena Vista is marketing the entire property of approximately 5217 acres and is including in the purpose the mining of basalt and other minerals.

--The applicant is seeking to rezone a portion of La Bajada Mesa from agriculture/residential to mining for its narrowly focused economic interests. Any such mining zone would likely be subject to expansion. The whole mesa is capped by basalt. Example: in 2002 JR Hale Contracting proposed a 500 acre strip-mine there that overlaps the current 50 acres as [diagramed](#).

--County staff in the past (2005 & 2008) recommend denial of the permit based on a "cadre" of reasons including the threat to historical and archeological resources and because they did not want to create a new mining zone. Has anything changed since 2008 that would make gravel mining in this location any more or less suitable? Less, YES! Since then, a State Park has become a reality offering a sustainable resource just east and down wind from the proposed mine site which is incompatible.

Nomi Green MA LPCC
505-577-2959

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NIBB-921

Jose Larranaga

From: Rebecca <rprocter@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 8:25 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Categories: Red Category

February 10, 2014

Dear Mr. Larrañaga, Mr. Ross, and Honorable County Commissioners:

I am writing to express my deep opposition to the proposal to mine basalt caprock from La Bajada Mesa by Buena Vista Estates and Rockology Limited, LLC. As a professional archaeologist of 35 years and a long-time member of the historic preservation community in New Mexico, I have serious concerns about the negative effects of the proposed development. They include the following:

- La Bajada Mesa contains rich and irreplaceable cultural resources dating from the earliest days of human occupation in New Mexico to the Camino Real and the development of Route 66 in the twentieth century. Both the physical remains and the significant landscape setting of these cultural resources are threatened by the proposed mine and associated roads. It is notable that La Bajada has been named one of the most endangered cultural places in New Mexico by the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance.
- The water required for a 25-year lease for this type of intensive hard-rock mining threatens the water base of our community, one that is already terribly diminished by intense drought, urban development, and increasing demand. It is not clear in the mining proposal exactly how much water would be needed daily to deal with large amounts of airborne dust being generated by mine activities, nor if the water requested would actually be sufficient to suppress that dust. This is not a reasonable risk for a community already facing deep water shortages.
- A 50-acre surface mine, with associated roads, heavy machinery, large vehicles, and inevitable effects on the clarity of the air would destroy the natural beauty and historic meaning of La Bajada as the gateway to Santa Fe County.
- The degradation of local scenery has a significant potential effect on Santa Fe County as a world-class visitor destination, and our tourist industry provides far more jobs in the County than a mechanized surface mine would do.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. This is an extremely important issue for our county.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Procter, Ph.D.
21 Aster Way
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508

rprocter@msn.com

Rebecca Procter, 21 Aster Way Santa Fe, NM 87508 505/466-6666 rprocter@msn.com CONFIDENTIALITY. The information contained in this transmission is advice intended exclusively for the proper use by the intended addressees and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any views expressed in this transmission are those of the individual sender, except where the transmission states otherwise and the sender being authorized appropriately. Any review, dissemination and other use of this information, as well as any action in reliance upon this information by persons and/or entities other than the intended addressees is prohibited. If you received this information in error, please note that no confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any mis-transmission. You are requested to inform the sender and/or addressee immediately and permanently delete and/or destroy the material.

NIP B-973

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 8:26 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: FW: La Bajada Mining

Categories: Red Category

From: Kathleen - Michael Casey [<mailto:kbcmbc@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 9:33 PM
To: Penny Ellis-Green
Subject: La Bajada Mining

Please halt the plans for mining at La Bajada. We need to respect our beautiful landscape in New Mexico.
I do not want these toxic sights using or effecting our precious water and our health.

Thank you.

Kathleen Casey
49 Goldmine Road
Cerrillos, N.M.
Sent from Windows Mail

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 9:40 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: FW: La Bajada Mesa

Categories: Red Category

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Ageson [<mailto:tom.aageson@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 9:50 AM
To: Penny Ellis-Green
Cc: Tom Ageson; Tom Ageson
Subject: La Bajada Mesa

Greetings-

Commissioner Liz Stefanics is our representative on the Commission. I am writing as a citizen of the County to state my objection to the mining on La Bajada Mesa.

Whether it is one gallon or one million gallons of water they want from our aquifer, it is wrong to remove it and give it to an outside mining company that wants to extract our natural resources. The Commissioners must know we are in a drought and the use of our water for mining unthinkable. To vote for it would not represent our interests today nor for that alone makes degrading our aquifer unsustainable for our communities that want to have long-term security. Our communities and our homes are of higher value than any water (let alone gold or oil) deal the county would consider. Just looking at the snow levels this year, it is obvious our water resources cannot be replenished.

Equally, the mining would destroy a beautiful mesa over time that makes our landscape drastically less attractive to residents and visitors alike. The value of our landscape, our quality of life and tourism far exceeds to allow outside companies to destroy.

Thank you very much!

Tom Ageson

189 Calle Galisteo

Santa Fe, NM 87508

--
tom.aageson@gmail.com <<mailto:tom.aageson@gmail.com>>

NBB-925

189 Calle Galisteo
Santa Fe, NM 87508
Skype: tom.aageson
Global Center for Cultural Entrepreneurship
tom@culturalentrepreneur.org <<mailto:tom@culturalentrepreneur.org>>

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 9:40 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: FW: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Categories: Red Category

-----Original Message-----

From: Philip Metcalf [<mailto:pmetcalf@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 1:37 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Robert A. Anaya; dmayfield@santafecountynm.gov; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Please oppose the mining of La Bajada. There are other mines nearby that can supply the same material.

LaBajada is the gateway to Santa Fe and should not be reduced to a mining operation.

Santa Fe and the surrounding community depend upon tourism for their livelihood. Tourists don't come to Santa Fe to see the mines nor to breathe the dust a mine creates — they come to experience the beauty of an unspoiled New Mexico landscape. The City, County, and State should be involved in efforts to protect and enhance the natural landscape, not to mine it.

Most importantly in a community that goes the extra mile to conserve water, it is outrageous to commit water to such an operation when all forecasts say that we will have less water in the future than we do at present.

Philip Metcalf
Voting Resident of Santa Fe

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 9:40 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: FW: La Bajada Mining

Categories: Red Category

-----Original Message-----

From: stephanie fries [<mailto:stephanie.fries8@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 5:07 PM
To: Penny Ellis-Green
Subject: La Bajada Mining

Dear Penny, I would be on record in opposition to the Basalt mining on La Bajada Mesa. I live on Camino Cerro Chato and can see thge mesa from my road. I am on oxygen an d fear that mining will send dust in the air which will further compromise my breathing. More dust, less view and as an artist I will find this objectionable as well. I cannot believe that the county is even considering this proposal. It will add few jobs to the workforce and seriously affect realestate values ot all neighboring areas. On that point alone I believe it is not to anyone's benefit to allow this project . Sincerely, Stephanie Fries

Jose Larranaga

From: Richard Miller <rickygmler@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 12:03 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC,
Categories: Red Category

Please do not let this operation go on, the damage to the environment would be catastrophic and not reversible.
For what would be gained is not worth the price to this amazing land
Richard Miller

Jose Larranaga

From: Pamela G Grob <pam@grobsf.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 6:46 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada Mesa

Categories: Red Category

Dear Sir:

I am writing to oppose the gravel strip project on La Bajada mesa. Please protect the pristine beauty of this area. I am also greatly concerned about the amount of precious water that will be used.

Sincerely,

Pamela Grob

Eldorado resident

Jose Larranaga

From: Skeniley <skeniley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 8:48 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; murlock@raintreecounty.gov
Subject: La Bajada Strip Mine Application

Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. larranaga

Please note our opposition to the La Bajada Strip Mine application.

Living approximately 20 miles west of La Bajada, in the shadow of the Ortiz mountain, La Bajada has been part of our vista for over 30 years. We appreciate the beauty of New Mexico vistas that also attract tourism and the movie industry which supports our state financially.

Why do we need another aggregate mine? The incredible long ranging hole and dust and noise created by the strip mine on old Highway 22 south of Madrid....is one travesty. We want to repeat this with another eyesore and environmental pollutant to the community? Yes, we are a large group of individuals living west of La Bajada. We are a community against this new application.

And to propose in such a vibrant and obvious area. This hill is our history. Why do we have such short sighted ness?

Water is also a huge concern. Our community wells are cherished and any additional use of water for such purposes....trucked or not.....is a major concern to all of New Mexicans as we face drought and political manoeuvres from other states to divert.

Please do not approve this application.

Thank you for reading our concerns.

Sincerely

Lou and Susanne Keniley

Sent from my iPad

Jose Larranaga

From: Anne Bence <annebence77@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 11:17 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada

Please act in respect for the earth and all those who recognize LaBajada for its power on this earth.

Sent from my iPhone

Jose Larranaga

From: Lois Lockwood <lokinlo@cybermesa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 11:34 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr Larranaga,

I am greatly concerned about the possible development of a portion of La Bajada Mesa as a mine to produce gravel. The area is a scenic gateway to Santa Fe, contains cultural resources, and is in proximity to the Cerrillos Hills State Park. It is not in the public welfare to use County water for this project, we are in drought conditions. The amount needed to mitigate dust and for reclamation (which is probably not possible) is unknown and probably more that proposed. Even though the application is not regulated by the SLDC, the spirit of the SLDP should be considered. I ask the CDRC and The BCC to deny this application.

Sincerely,
Lois K. Lockwood
Lamy, NM

February 12, 2014

Jose Larranaga, Case Manager

Dear Mr. Larranaga :

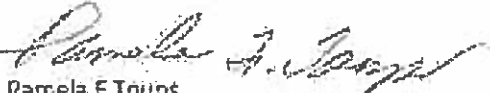
We are writing this letter to express our opposition to the proposed mining operations by Buena Vista Estates and Rockology Limited LLC on the road to Cerrillos.

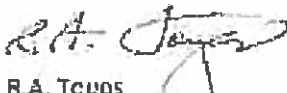
We are now residing in the community of La Cienega, after retiring and moving to New Mexico from New Orleans in October of 2012. We love the State and look forward to spending our golden years here.

We are strongly opposed to the mining operations because of the detrimental effects to the environment, the dust created during the operation, the water use to try and control same, and also the noise.

The risks associated with this project far outweighs the rewards. We hope you deny the proposed application for these reasons.

Sincerely,


Pamela F Toups


R.A. Toups

36 Raven Ravine

Santa Fe, NM 87507

Jose Larranaga

From: Bradley Gummersall <bradley@denmansantafe.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 9:05 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada Mesa

Submitting my extreme negative vote for any new mining on the mesa.
Thanks.

Bradley Gummersall, VP
Denman & Associates, Inc.
PH: 505-983-6014
FAX: 505-986-1419
CELL: 505-780-1682 e-mail: bradley@denmansantafe.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ denmansantafe.com

1102-925

Jose Larranaga

From: Sherill Spaar <spaarsl@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 10:17 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Say NO to Gravel Mining at La Bajada

Dear Sir:

I ask with respect that Santa Fe County reject the proposal for gravel mining at La Bajada based on the amount of water to be used and wasted and on the archaeological, cultural and historical value of the area.

Thank you.

Sherill Spaar
500 Rodeo Rd., # 210
Santa Fe, NM 87505

2014-2-9 36

Jose Larranaga

From: Nmexkenshan@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 9:56 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: pengreen@santafecountygov.gov; Robin Gurule; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; lstepanics@santafecountynm.gov
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Attachments: Questions for determining quarry viability.wpd

Categories: Red Category

Attached are questions that need to be answered prior to allowing a gravel pit on La Bajada Mesa. Also, I noticed the applying is a LLC. That means he can make a mess, sell all the material, leave the mess, and declair bankruptcy. Then start another company to do the same thing. We end-up with a scar on the land and a lot less water. The corporation ends-up with the money. Not a bad trade-off for the corporation.

Jose Larranaga

From: Mark M <markmares.mm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 11:20 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: "CDRC Case: Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC"

Categories: Red Category

Strip Mining our stunning land is a travesty.

- 1) Not enough water to begin with
- 2) \$ millions of dollars are spent by tourists because of our scenery
- 3) DON'T feed the pockets of a few corrupt politicians or the Governor

This is unbelievably that this is even being considered. I am a "Third Generation Santa Fean" thinking that it's the outsiders wanting this; they will leave in a few years after and go home with all the money. These people don't care about our CLEAN AIR and lack of WATER

Don't let them ruin our home!!!! Put this to a public vote and don't line the pockets for the outsiders and greedy politician.

Jose Larranaga

From: MidbarNM@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 12:06 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Robert A. Anaya; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics; murlock@raintreecounty.com; diane.senior@gartner.com; drphilsantafe@aol.com; cdnintxcvm@gmail.com
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga ,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to any mining occurring on La Bajada Mesa.

The bottom line is that there is no need for such an enterprise. There are already sufficient gravel mines in the area to cover the demands of the community. Any additional companies would just compete with those pre-existing ones.

In addition, La Bajada Mesa is a significant historic and cultural site, which deserves to be protected.

Mining in this sensitive area would unnecessarily increase traffic and noise in rural communities, and would use tremendous amounts of increasingly valuable water in an attempt at dust control. We can ill afford such efforts.

Please do everything possible to assure that this ill-conceived initiative does not go through. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Drs. Phil and Karen Milstein
162 Rancho Alegre Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87508

From: djofm@yahoo.com [<mailto:djofm@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2014 7:20 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Protest: Mining application on La Bajada Mesa

Please, Jose Larranaga,

I do NOT support mining in this location because:

--Mining in this site would result in the degradation of a NM cultural landscape that has been historically, culturally and environmentally significant to New Mexico for hundreds of years.

--Mining the Mesa would ruin the geological integrity--the grandeur of this oceanic Gateway along I-25 into Santa Fe & Waldo Canyon Road--the road that leads into the Galisteo basin park lands, a sustainable and growing economic resource. The Mesa needs to be preserved as open space for the welfare of the county, city, state, and thus the nation.

--There is no need for another basalt gravel mine in the County or another gravel mining operation off of I-25 as there are several existing gravel mines within reasonable proximity that can provide these materials.

--The current owners have no protected rights to demand a rezoning as they purchased the property with the current agricultural/residential zoning in place. The County has no obligation to enhance the economic (sold by the cubic yard) value of the property to the detriment of the County and State as a whole.

--Using County Water to enable the degradation of this historic NM cultural landscape would not benefit the public welfare.

--NO ONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CRUNCH UP OUR GLORIOUS BAJADA!

Diana Johnson, 2843 Highway 14, Madrid N.M. 87010, ON THE TURQUOISE TRAIL

Jose Larranaga

From: Peter Van Ness <pvnrealtor@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 9:23 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Robert A. Anaya; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: La Bajada proposed gravel mining project

To all concerned:

I just want to express my opposition to the proposed mining project in the La Bajada area.

A visible blight on the hillsides of our beautiful natural gateway to Santa Fe would be a travesty to all of the residents and visitors to Santa Fe. This is the most traveled entrance to our wonderful city; the formations of these majestic hills must be left alone to greet us all. Please turn down this horrible mining proposal and protect the wonderful majestic natural formations of this area.

Thank you in advance for your opposition to this project.

Peter

Peter D. Van Ness
Little Tesuque Creek
Santa Fe, NM 87506
Cell Phone: 505-660-6409
E-mail: pvnrealtor@msn.com
Website: www.petervanness.com

Jose Larranaga

From: Jay Dratler Jr. <jdratler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2014 11:59 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Buena Vista Estates/Rockology Mine Proposal

Dear Mr. Larra,

We are husband and wife, residents of Rancho San Marcos, writing to urge rejection of the pending application to mine La Bajada Mesa.

The corridor north of Santa Fe, to Tesuque and beyond, is heavily populated. So the City and County have planned to improve areas south of the City, including our own subdivision (Rancho San Marcos), Rancho Viejo, Rancho Allegre, the town of San Marcos and Santa Fe Community College. The new movie studio near the Prison is part of that plan.

The proposed mine/quarry is within sight, hearing and polluting distance of our Subdivision and most of the areas named above. Already we hear jet engines from planes at the Airport. But planes only run a few times a day. A mine or quarry at about the same distance, operating all day every weekday, would destroy the peace and quiet of our home, put dust and exhaust into the near-constant winds in our valley, make our Subdivision a less desirable place to live, and likely lower our property values.

A mine would also use lots of water, much more than homes or people need. It would deplete the precious sweet-water aquifer that supplies our and neighboring subdivisions. For what? Gravel?

Santa Fe City and County already have a brilliant land-use plan. It relies on sources of income that are quiet and don't pollute. These sources include: tourism, art, retirees like us, second-home owners, state and local government, and a newer source of income: the movie locations near the Prison and at Bonanza Creek Ranch.

Except for government, these sources all bring money into Santa Fe from out of state. More important, they all preserve what makes Santa Fe unique: unspoiled natural beauty and rare peace. (According to a recent report, Santa Fe has the world's second cleanest air, after Whitehorse in the Yukon).

Why would the City or County want to ruin this successful history by approving a mine? Would Georgia O'Keefe have come to Northern New Mexico to see plumes of industrial dust spoil her view, or to hear mining trucks and explosions? Are movie makers eager to wait for dust to subside before taking their panoramic views?

The proposed mine is incompatible with the City and County's land use plans and its economic and cultural history, including movie making. We respectfully ask the Committee to reject the application and stick to the plan that has made Santa Fe City and County world famous and prosperous, and one of the most desirable places in our nation to live.

Sincerely,

/jay dratler, jr./

Jay Dratler, Jr., Ph.D., J.D.
Goodyear Professor of Intellectual Property, Emeritus

/aileen thong/

Aileen Thong, M.D., M.P.H.
Colonel, US Army Medical Corps (Retired)

127 Calle Galisteo (Rancho San Marcos)
Santa Fe, NM 87508-1545
(505) 438-2616

Jose Larranaga

From: emgraeser@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2014 8:17 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Robert A. Anaya
Subject: Proposed basalt mining on La Bajada

This proposed mining operation is a terrible idea for many reasons involving desecration of an historically, culturally, geologically and recreationally valuable environment.

But the unconscionable use of water that belongs to all the residents of our county is seriously disturbing. Although drawing our water for this project may be technically legal, in our time of drought it is definitely against the best interests of the county.

What is going to happen when our water starts running out? Will all the rest of us have to be restricted - unable to provide for our livestock, vegetable gardens, family needs - so the mining operation can continue drawing all the water it needs?

Or will this operation also suffer restrictions - thereby leaving the rest of us breathing quantities of injurious-to-our-health dust, and our crops and pasture covered in it?

Twenty-five years of this is totally unacceptable; please do the right thing for all county residents and deny this permit.

Thank you, Emily Graeser

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

encountering unanticipated industrial activities, including the trucks on the road and the visual impacts of the mine itself.

County staff in the past (2005 & 2008) recommend denial of the permit based on a "cadre" of reasons including the threat to historical and archaeological resources and because they did not want to create a new mining zone. Has anything changed since 2008 that would make gravel mining in this location any more or less suitable? Less, YES! Since then, a State Park has become a reality offering a sustainable resource just east and down wind from the proposed mine site which is incompatible.

It is not in the public welfare to use County water to open up an unsustainable relatively short-term operation that would degrade a long recognized historic and cultural landscape--a landscape that can otherwise contribute sustainably to the county's economic welfare through the tourist industry.

The amount of water, our most precious and finite resource, needed for this ill conceived and unnecessary mine is not clear. The application claims a total of 710,000 gallons a year or 2.19 acre feet, which we think would be woefully insufficient to accomplish the suppression of dust. Even this amount would generate thousands of heavy water haul truck passes a year and contribute to deterioration of our state and county roads, the repair of which the taxpayer would have to subsidize.

Hauled water should not be considered adequate for long term mining operations. Santa Fe County should develop a policy that does not by default provide water to all Developments of Countywide Impact including oil and gas, mining, CAFO's etc. and not allow them to evade needed acquisition of commercial / industrial water rights. When a proposed mine is sited it should have its own long-term water supply on site so as to eliminate the impacts of water hauling that includes traffic hazards as well as additional infrastructure impacts from heavy trucks.

In conclusion, for all of these and many more reasons, including detrimental impacts upon

wildlife, I implore you to please deny the siting of such an

irreversible, ruinous use of this vital, historic New

Mexico cultural landscape. The state, the county, the city of Santa Fe and citizens all need to work together

to find a way to preserve La Bajada Mesa &

Escarpment, which is worthy of being part of a National Monument.

Sincerely,

Jose Larranaga

From: ishwari sollohub <ishwarisollohub@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 7:55 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada Mesa

Dear Mr. Larranaga,

Please do not allow the La Bajada Mesa to be developed into more gravel mining. I understand that people want to make money, but we have to prioritize our natural heritage and the environmental integrity of our area, too. As a nation and as a region, we must begin making decisions that have long-term wisdom, rather than short-term satisfaction. It's like growing up into adults who can handle delayed gratification, vs. "acting out" from our child and adolescent impulses, to get what we want (money) NOW, regardless of the long-term cost. You have a chance here to make a stand for environmental and cultural integrity, and to act in a way that has long-term wisdom, rather than short-term indulgence. Please act wisely and show that you can see a longer-term future for our lands and people, for our children and their future. Show that you love this land, and are not willing to contribute to the degradation of it. Please do not allow the Mesa property to be rezoned for mining. Thank you.

Be well,
Ishwari Sollohub
505-231-1697

"Accept-then act. Whatever the present moment contains, accept it as if you had chosen it. Always work with it, not against it. Make it your friend and ally, not your enemy. This will miraculously transform your whole life." --Eckhart Tolle

My book, *Rocks and Roses: a Memoir of Love, Loss, and Transformation*, is now available for purchase.
Paperback - <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00BP1HSG4E>
Kindle - http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%253Dstripbooks&field-keywords=ishwari+sollohub

Browse my website if you are interested in knowing more about my work: www.ishwari.org. I am accepting new clients for counseling, as well as hospice care. Thank you for referring friends, family members and associates.

Jose Larranaga

From: Sandrine Gaillard <sandrine.gaillard@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 4:55 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

I am writing to let you know that I am strongly opposed to the idea of a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa for reasons that should be obvious:

- It is a beautiful sight! Why destroy it? Why not preserve beautiful geological landmarks for generations to come?
- It would waste large quantities of water (for dust control etc). It is needless to say that given the drought conditions that Santa Fe has experienced, that does not seem to be a sound decision, now or ever. The little available water should be there for people, crops and cattle - not for destructive mining operations.
- It is home to hieroglyphs and archaeological sites. Why not preserve those, rather than destroy them?
- It is also home to animals and plants! Why can't these be left alone?

I appreciate your time and help. And I certainly hope that you understand that many of us feel strongly about preserving the local culture, heritage, wilderness and resources for generations to come!

Sincerely,
Sandrine Gaillard, PhD

Jose Larranaga

From: Ava Fullerton <avafullerton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 1:00 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada Mesa proposed mine

Dear Friends

I am writing to register opposition to the proposed gravel mine at the top of La Bajada

The water usage of one million gallons per year from our county resources would be irresponsible
Besides that, there are plenty of gravel mines in the area

Please refuse this request for a variance
There seems to me no reason for it to even be considered

Thank you

Ava Fullerton
616 #C Paseo de la Loma
Santa fe

 avafullerton@gmail.com

Jose Larranaga

From: Donna Herring <donnaeherring@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 1:26 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Donna Herring
197 Camino Los Abuelos
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Mr. Jose Larrañaga, Case Manager
CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga,

I wonder how far 710,000 gallons of water per year (the figure set forth in the La Bajada Mesa strip mine application) would go towards sustaining the ever-growing number of households in the Highway 14 area whose wells have already been compromised or ruined by development and drought, the households which already depend, to some degree, if not completely, upon water from the Santa Fe County facility in question?

Having lived most of my adult life in this area, I have witnessed the drying-up of many domestic wells. The combination of unbridled development in areas of questionable water supply, our on-going drought and, yes, climate change has contributed to a severe water shortage in our area. In 1978, when the first well was drilled on my property, the depth of the well was 200 feet, with an output of 15 gallons per minute. By 1998, the water table had dropped enough to render that well useless and a new well was drilled. Its depth is 485 feet, the output, 1 gallon per minute when it produces water. Well water is only used for household use and water for my horse, dogs, cats, and wild birds. No well water is used for outdoor vegetation. My daily habits have come to include being very frugal with both my use of water and the disposal of grey water. I would not dream of washing a car on my property and rarely have my vehicle washed in town.

In the last ten years, my well has produced less and less water. It becomes completely dry in the spring, summer and fall months. Thus far, water returns for the duration of the winter. The barren months require that I have water delivered. The water comes from the County facility on Highway 14. Many households depend upon the County for water, even year-round. This is not going to get better. We must conserve our precious water resource, assuring that the water is there for the taxpayers who foot the bill as well as for the area wildlife who drink from windmills in our corridor.

It is incomprehensible to me that any money-making venture has the audacity to request such a handout from the citizens of Santa Fe County, much less that the County would entertain even the ghost of a thought of granting such a request. Must we wait until no water comes out of the tap?

I respectfully ask that the CDRC acknowledge rights and the wishes of the citizens by denying the strip mine application made by Buena Vista Estates and Rockology LLC.

Sincerely,
Donna Herring

Jose Larranaga

From: Gail Karr <gailkarr2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 2:32 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada Mesa

Dear Mr. Larranga,

I am writing you from my heart first. You will hear many logical reasons why we shouldn't approve the La Bajada Mesa strip mining, but as a person who is in the neighborhood I must tell you how I feel about the proposed situation.

I bought land and built a house in the area, in the county over 22 years ago. I looked for many years before I bought my land because I specifically wanted something quiet. Now after many years I really don't want my life disrupted or have to move(if I could sell). The impact of the proposed mining would totally upset my life. Also make it next to impossible to sell my house, since I can even hear the train, which I knew about and accepted. The train doesn't run that often and doesn't have the impact(literally) of blasting. I know when to expect it, so I don't feel like I'm having a heart attack or something is drastically wrong.

I work at home and need the peace and quiet to concentrate on being a constructive and creative member of society. Even the increase of air traffic has disturbed me and made me lose time getting to concentrate again, due to the disruption- noise pollution,etc. and check that everything is alright in the area.

This area is very special to me and my neighbors or else we wouldn't have chosen to live without many of the amenities that a more congested area would offer. We put up without many things to have a lifestyle that the proposed mining would threaten.

I know you have probably heard it all re: the water or shall I remind you of that or lack of it. On that I have even installed a cistern to not overwork my well. I am responsible with the water I use and hope that with the drought and all, I have an major issue with you not being a responsible manager of our water. We need it for domestic use first. When you can stop the area's growth and lack of drought maybe that can be revisited again. Flagrant disregard for your planning for the county's water situation, should probably be enough for people to look at maintaining your current position.

I'm sure the current uproar of the waste of water alone would or could be grounds for dismissal.

Do your job on that issue. We all know the statistics and situation on that well, so I don't think I need to go into that again.

The air quality alone and not caring about the health of the citizens should also become clear to you.

There are enough asthma and other related respiratory issues involved, is another no brainer, is to increase that risk to our health is total irresponsible. The people in the area can't afford to have even 1 child die or get respiratory illness. That far offsets the \$122,000.00/year you project this project could bring. Just think of what the health impacts would do to the indigent fund on the county.

Pollution from dust is the #1 polluter already in NM. To add to that is totally irresponsible.

Then there is the toll this project would take on the traffic and road maintenance. Another negative cash flow. I'm sure everyone in County would rather just pay the extra \$1 that would equal the income received from this project each year rather than put up with the lowering of the quality of life we now enjoy.

The whole thing is just such a bad idea to approve of that I can't believe that somehow the "culture of corruption" hasn't influenced your decision to allow this to go on, except if you want the neighborhood to say NO because you don't want to directly do it.

If you're going to act this way then citizen involvement is necessary, as it is in our back yards.

Sincerely,
Gail Karr

n.a.n. 9/101



Jose Larranaga

From: Patsy Rasmussen <ptpanama@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 7:03 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: La Bajada Mesa

Humans over the centuries have ruined the wilderness until many species are gone and going. Let's leave Bajada Mesa in it's natural state and not destroy our natural beauty. Giving much needed water to a commercial enterprise is criminal. Quit playing political games and leave something natural for the future.

--
Patsy Rasmussen
New Mexico

Jose Larranaga

From: Marc Hogenboom <marc.hogenboom@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 8:58 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: La Bajada Mesa

Dear Sir,

As a Santa Fe County resident and taxpayer I feel the need to inform you about my feelings concerning the application for a Basalt strip mine on La Bajada.

The **Sustainable Growth Management Plan**, that was adopted by a unanimous Board of County Commissioners on November 9 2010, states that the area of La Bajada should remain agricultural/residential. There is no allowance for mining in this area, that is designated for sustainable development.

The Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC) was approved by the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners by Ordinance at the December 10, 2013 Board meeting. The Code provides a legal framework for implementing land development and growth management policies of the County's Sustainable Growth Management Plan adopted in 2010.

However, the Sustainable Land Development Code will not become effective until the County Zoning Map is adopted. The Public Process for the Zoning map adoption is anticipated to be initiated in early April after the Zoning Map Adoption Draft which is scheduled for release in late March. Public hearings are scheduled for May and June.

In light of this information it seems UNBELIEVABLE to me that the Board of County Commissioners is now considering recommending approval of the mining application, which is obviously in conflict with the intentions of the SGMP.

To have the process for changing the current zoning and the process for the new zoning map to run simultaneously contradicts every form of common sense.

Since the adoption of the new zoning map will probably happen in June of this year it wouldn't be ILLEGAL to vote in favor of the mining activities in March, but this Board of Commissioners would loose all its CREDIBILITY by doing so since it violates the very principles the County spent years crafting into law.

I hope the Board will do the RIGHT thing !!!

Kind regards,
Marc Hogenboom
Madrid NM

Jose Larranaga

From: Brad Tangen <therealcheeseman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2014 10:27 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Mining La Bajada Mesa, even just a portion of it, goes against all natural and historical protections put into place as an attempt to preserve the area. It is a recognized historical monument, if one section is allowed to be mined that will open the gate for other areas as well. Eventually it will all be reduced to, at best, a very small area still protected with only pictures of the past to show how incredible and ecologically significant the place once was.

There are very few areas in the United States which border so many different ecological extremes, and this one is by far one of the most important. It would be like allowing houses built on the Petroglyphs monument, the cultural significance of the area would be completely lost.

Please reconsider this, and tell the company New Mexico does not support destruction of it's "protected" areas for commercial purposes. If this were to be approved, with the need for water "at their discretion", would New Mexico actually make any money from the company? They will pay tax on their product, but will it cover the water bill, including transporting the water to them? If so, will the gain be worth the ecological damage that is sure to result?

Gravel for road base is important, necessary for building new roads and repairing old ones. However there has got to be a better place to retrieve it, we cannot let people take resources from wherever they want, neglecting where it comes from and the damage, both ecologically and historically, it may create.

Jose Larranaga

From: Virginia J Miller <vjmopus@cybermesa.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 2:37 AM
To: Jose Larranaga; Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Robert A. Anaya; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics; murlock@raintreecounty.com; diane.senior@gartner.com
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

February 27, 2014

**Jose Larranaga, Case Manager
CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC**

I DO NOT SUPPORT MINING ON LA BAJADA MESA. There is no unmet need for this gravel, as there are several gravel mines in the area more than capable of meeting the demand. It is not necessary to destroy a historic and cultural approach to Santa Fe or the view along the Turquoise Trail. Residents and tourists alike value the beauty and stillness of the land. If tourists avoid the area because of mining, it could negatively impact local businesses.

There would be a significant increase in commercial traffic on rural roads in the area making them less safe and harder to maintain, as well as unwanted air, noise and light pollution in the surrounding residential/agricultural area.

One million gallons of water would be required annually for dust control which is unacceptable during a time of drought which could become a lot worse over the 25 years the applicants want to purchase water from the county prison facility. This enormous water usage would negatively impact the prison water needs and deplete the aquifer supplying area wells for the water needs of local residents and their animals. We must conserve and prioritize our water usage as water grows more scarce.

Please maintain the current residential/agricultural zoning for La Bajada Mesa and do NOT permit the applicants to mine gravel from a section of La Bajada Mesa.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

**Virginia J. Miller
125 Calle Don Jose
Santa Fe NM 87501**

Jose Larranaga

From: Helge & Gull <helgegull@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 3:52 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; sross@santa-fe.nm.us; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; mchavez@santafecounty; kholian@santafecounty.gov; istefanics@santafecounty.gov

Categories: Red Category

Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga, we are opposed to changing the zoning to mining anywhere on La Bajada Mesa.

This important New Mexico landscape is for sale on the international market, via CBRE-Ellis. Buena Vista is marketing the entire property of approximately 5,000 acres and is including in the sale's pitch the mining of basalt and other minerals. If the county were to create a mining zone it would be seen as legitimizing mining as the purpose of the entire acreage. If the property was then bought by a transnational mining corporation, the county might not be able or inclined to limit further mining of the Mesa or anywhere on the 5217 acre parcel.

It is not in the public welfare to use County water to open up an unsustainable operation that would degrade a long recognized historic and cultural landscape--a landscape that can otherwise contribute sustainably to the county's economic welfare through the tourist industry.

Please deny this application for the sake of New Mexico's future.

Sincerely,

Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga, we are opposed to changing the zoning to mining anywhere on La Bajada Mesa.

This important New Mexico landscape is for sale on the international market, via CBRE-Ellis. Buena Vista is marketing the entire property of approximately 5,000 acres and is including in the sale's pitch the mining of basalt and other minerals. If the county were to create a mining zone it would be seen as legitimizing mining as the purpose of the entire acreage. If the property was then bought by a transnational mining corporation, the county might not be able or inclined to limit further mining of the Mesa or anywhere on the 5217 acre parcel.

It is not in the public welfare to use County water to open up an unsustainable operation that would degrade a long recognized historic and cultural landscape--a landscape that can otherwise contribute sustainably to the county's economic welfare through the tourist industry.

Please deny this application for the sake of New Mexico's future.

Sincerely,

Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga, we are opposed to changing the zoning to mining anywhere on La Bajada Mesa.

This important New Mexico landscape is for sale on the international market, via CBRE-Ellis. Buena Vista is marketing the entire property of approximately 5,000 acres and is including in the sale's pitch the mining of basalt and other minerals. If the county were to create a mining zone it would be seen as legitimizing mining as the purpose of the entire acreage. If the property was then bought by a transnational mining corporation, the county might not be able or inclined to limit further mining of the Mesa or anywhere on the 5217 acre parcel.

It is not in the public welfare to use County water to open up an unsustainable operation that would degrade a long recognized historic and cultural landscape--a landscape that can otherwise contribute sustainably to the county's economic welfare through the tourist industry.

Please deny this application for the sake of New Mexico's future.

Sincerely,

Helge Dahl

Gull Dahl

Gull Dahl

Jose Larranaga

From: Aimee Rousseau <aimeerousseau@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 9:41 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC,

Dear Mr. Larranaga,

I am writing today to express my heartfelt disapproval of anyone ever mining La Bajada Mesa. It belongs to everyone and no one and should remain respectfully untouched by man.

I'm curious, if being listed as a "Most Endangered Cultural Heritage Site" doesn't afford any actual protection, how are the people with a conscience and forethought supposed to keep anything safe from greed driven wanton destruction? That sounds inflammatory or dramatic, but when I looked for more diplomatic words to substitute sadly there just was no other way to sugar coat that this is the sad bottom line.

The First Nation folks indigenous to this state believed a person should never do something without considering the impact those actions would have on the next SEVEN generations. If an idea appeared to have potential negative future repercussions then that bad idea would wisely and unselfishly not be done, end of story. THAT is thinking for the greater good of your people, all people and the planet; and that is sustainable.

For the sake of clarity I will state the obvious because its my truth and appears to apply here. There is zero integrity in destroying the world of the many who elected a few decision makers to represent them in good faith by manipulating the rules while in an office so a very few people can make a quick buck.

Destroying, consuming and polluting are all unconscionable, unforgivable crimes against this earth and her people; especially when

**Thank You,
Aimee Rousseau**

Jose Larranaga

From: Sarah Bienvenu <sarahbienvenu@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 11:27 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

To those who this concerns:

The mining or quarrying within the La Bajada Mesa would be a travesty. This historic land is fragile and has many ancient ruins. It would be a travesty to destroy its integrity. Santa Feans and New Mexicans alike would lose an important part of our geographical history. Please recognize the importance of this land and protect it.

Thank you,

Sarah Bienvenu

Jose Larranaga

From: Howard Korder <korder1@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 12:11 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga:

I'm writing to you regarding the application for a proposed gravel strip mine on La Bajada Mesa, which I understand has received a recommendation from Santa Fe County staff. The environmental, archeological, and scenic concerns that resulted in identical proposals being rejected in 2005 and 2008 have not changed. In truth, as we face extended drought conditions and increasing pressure to develop remaining open spaces in the county, those concerns have only grown more intense. It is highly debatable, in light of mining operations already in existence nearby, whether further exploitation of this resource is necessary. There are also unanswered questions regarding Buena Vista's ability and willingness to address the significant problems of dust control and site reclamation. Additionally, there is the matter of rezoning the land for extractive use, which the county is under no compulsion to authorize.

La Bajada is the grand entry to the uplands of the old Rio Arriba, the heart of New Mexican culture, and rich in its own history and beauty. As a longtime county resident, I strongly support its preservation for generations to come. I urge you to reconfirm the earlier findings regarding the Buena Vista mine, and reject this application.

Yours truly,
Howard Korder
124 Duran Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501

ose Larranaga

From: darlaw@spiritone.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 9:20 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Stephen C. Ross; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: La Bajada and mining proposals

I am writing this email in response to hearing about the strip mining proposal affecting the La Bajada area. I grew up in Santa Fe and spent twenty years there; I still have family and friends in Northern New Mexico and visit whenever possible. I have many concerns about the impact this will have on the following: Dust, insufficient dust mitigation, scarce water resources to deal with the same, and defacing of this beautiful and historic area. In a time of drought that has mainly gone unchecked since at least the year 2000 with no end in sight, I am especially concerned about the diversion of needed water resources.

I am also concerned about the accident potential of dust reducing visibility on Interstate 25 depending on wind conditions as well as other roads in the area. Nature has a way of taking things in her own hands despite human efforts at predicting the unpredictable. The fires in the Jemez Mountains in 2000 and 2011 should be a stark reminder of this. Dust cannot be timed in the same way as a controlled burn; the supposedly controlled burns created massive destruction in the wildfires. Lives could easily be lost in this scenario.

I live in the Pacific Northwest and there were incidents of lives lost and people hurt during supposedly controlled grass/field burns in western Oregon when the wind shifted and obscured Interstate 5 freeway traffic.

Finally, my impression is that there is no set policy in place which would create guidelines for when other applications expanding the mining area are filed, and when to approve or disapprove of them. Once the door is opened, there may not be a way to shut it.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Darcy J. Scholts

PO Box 61932

Vancouver, Washington 98666-1932

(360) 735-5950

Jose Larranaga

From: Paula <paula@paulazima.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 1:46 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Oppose proposed gravel strip mine, are they crazy?

Dear Case Manger, Jose Larranaga,

I am writing to ask that you please do all you can to deny the proposed gravel strip mine on La Bajada Mesa.

Is the county going nuts?

Tourism is a huge industry isn't it?

Isn't Santa Fe called The City Different because of it's history and mysterious beauty? Isn't one of the three MAIN entrances to the city up HWY 25, up La Bajada?

And they propose to use our city water in a documented time of draught?
And tear up the land to create gravel?

It breaks my heart that callous business people have no regard for natural beauty, let alone the VISUAL IMPACT.

Please suggest that it be purchased as part of a land conservancy.

Thank you,
Paula Zima
10 blue raven road,
santa fe, NM, 87508

"We've always tried to stay sane when other people go crazy"
-Buffet/Munger

Paula Zima

paula@paulazima.com
Painting & Sculpture
<http://www.paulazima.com>
505-424-2207
10 Blue Raven Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87508

Visit my studio Facebook Page and "Like" it!

 Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 3:23 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: FW: La Bajada mining --- NO!

From: CindyR [<mailto:croper56@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 2:25 PM
To: Penny Ellis-Green
Subject: FW: La Bajada mining --- NO!

Greetings Ms. Ellis-Green,

It was kindly explained to me that the County Commissioners are not the right people to be emailing at this point, and that it would be you, as the Growth Management Administrator. So I am forwarding my email below on to you for your consideration.

Thank you in advance,

 Cindy Roper
Española, NM
(505) 747-8075


From: CindyR [<mailto:croper56@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 1:42 PM
To: 'dmayfield@santafecountynm.gov'; (ranaya@santafecounty.org)
Cc: 'mchavez@santafecountynm.gov'; 'Istefanics@santafecountynm.gov'; 'kholian@santafecountynm.gov'
Subject: La Bajada mining --- NO!

Sent via email and USPS

Dear Commissioners Mayfield and Anaya,

I am writing to you today to implore you, as a new (and past) constituent, to vote NO on allowing any further consideration of the application for mining La Bajada Mesa.

I've spent the past 7 years living in the Cerrillos area, and am painfully aware of the water issues there. Every year got drier and drier. For the county to be considering a permit allowing the use of 100's of 1,000's of gallons of water is unfathomable. Please do everything in your power to protect our resources.

 Although I recently moved to Sombrillo (Commissioner Mayfield's district), I have dear friends in the Cerrillos area. I'm writing for them, and for ALL New Mexicans that understand the value of our dwindling water supply as well as our quality-of-life.

As I drive up the I-25 corridor between Albuquerque and Santa Fe, I'm visually struck with the number of strip mining operations in that 50 mile spans. Please do not allow one more to operate. We simply don't need it!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

I plan on attending the March 20th hearing, and even though I won't ask to speak, I'll be there in support of the decision I'm asking you to make to stop this insanity.

Sincerely,



Cynthia (Cindy) Roper
29 Walnut Circle
Española, NM 87532
505/747-8075

"The idea of wilderness needs no defense. It only needs more defenders." -Edward Abbey

Jose Larranaga

From: Vicki Lucero
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 12:27 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: FW: "Stop the Strip Mine on La Bajada Mesa" petition

From: Rachel A. Brown
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 5:01 PM
To: Vicki Lucero
Subject: FW: "Stop the Strip Mine on La Bajada Mesa" petition

For the record.

From: Leslie Lakind <leftielakind@gmail.com>
Date: March 4, 2014 at 2:12:12 PM MST
To: undisclosed-recipients;
Subject: Fwd: "Stop the Strip Mine on La Bajada Mesa" petition

----- Forwarded message -----

From: evalyn bemis <evalyn@newmexico.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 4, 2014 at 11:29 AM
Subject: "Stop the Strip Mine on La Bajada Mesa" petition
To: evalyn bemis <evalyn@newmexico.com>

Hi,

Help stop a proposal to allow a gravel strip mine on top of La Bajada Mesa, south of Santa Fe along I-25. This gateway to Santa Fe will be desecrated by this strip mine, and use scarce, County-provided, potable water. Moreover, granting this proposal will establish a precedent for future expansion of this new mining zone to adjacent parts of the Mesa, further extending the destructive impact. All this for gravel! Go to www.savelabajada.org for further information.

That's why I signed a petition to County Development Review Committee (Santa Fe, NM) and Board of County Commissioners (Santa Fe, NM), which says:

"I urge you to deny the proposed gravel strip mine on the top of La Bajada Mesa, south of Santa Fe near I-25. This is one of the most important historical, cultural, and scenic landmarks in New Mexico. In addition, the County has unconscionably agreed to sell scarce, potable water for mining operations and for dust control. Please stop the destruction of this treasure. Go to www.savelabajada.org for further information. "

Will you sign the petition too? Click here to add your name to the 1400+ people who have already signed:

http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/stop-the-strip-mine-on?source=s.fwd&r_by=846711

Thanks! And feel free to pass this on to anyone who might be concerned.

Evalyn

Photo courtesy of Don Van Doren, petition creator



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The fundamental cause of trouble in the world today is that
the stupid are cocksure while the intelligent are full of doubt.
Bertrand Russell

Jose Larranaga

From: Mary Peck <mary.peck@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 2:18 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Mr. Larrañaga:

Please note my absolute opposition to any mining on La Bajada Mesa.

My reasons include the importance of preserving this historic landscape and viewscape; the impacts such mining would have, including air pollution; the difficulty in reclaiming the land after such mining and the impossibility of restoring the land after strip mining; and because nothing has changed to improve the viability of this application since it was denied by County Staff in 2005 and 2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for your attention to the health and well being of all residents of Santa Fe County.

Sincerely,

Mary Peck
P.O. Box 1131
Santa Fe, NM 87504

29 Ranch Alegre Road
Santa Fe, NM 87508
March 10, 2014

Mr. Jose Larranaga
County Development Review Committee
Santa Fe County

Dear Sir:

Though I have been opposed for some time to the proposal by *Rockology* to mine gravel atop LaBajada Mesa, a conversation with a quite conservation-oriented individual got me thinking recently in more quantitative terms. He wondered if defeat of this proposition might simply lead later to, instead, a large housing development on the Mesa consuming much more water. A housing development on 5,000 acres (say 500 homes) would, even if occupied by conservation-conscious residents, likely consume 25 to 50 times as much water as *Rockology's* own estimate of their dust-control use. Does that make sense, or is that figure estimated by the proponent a reasonable one?

A figure of roughly 750,000 gallons is equivalent to ca.100,000 cubic feet of water, spread over an acreage each year of 200 acres (i.e., a 25-year "exhaustion cycle"). That is equivalent to nearly 9 million square feet of mined area annually. One doesn't have to be very good at math to see that this means *Rockology's* estimate of water use represents roughly one-hundredth of a foot of water annually for dust control to be both more precise and more meaningful, one-eighth of an inch. I expect you realize that even in Santa Fe County's highest rainfall years (100 times that amount of precipitation) dust is often a problem from undisturbed soil!

In other words, the proponent's own estimate of water use for (what on any objective basis would be) dust control is absurdly low. A reasonable extension of my foregoing arguments would be that a 500-home housing development would NOT use any more water than the proposed mine actually would. Furthermore, there would be, at only one-tenth the actual dust-control water use which I contend to be necessary, one tank truck every 5 hours picking up 4,000 gallons at the prison, "round-the-clock", to deliver to *Rockology's* proposed operation. The negative logistical implications of this reality need to be considered (whether or not the proponent would truly use the route which he claims between the water pick-up and drop-off points).

I further contend that another gravel mine in this county is necessary only on the basis that our County Commissioners will continue to approve further unrestrained development, including new or improved roads leading to additional water-consuming facilities. I am far from alone in hoping that is not the case. Our current residents' quality of life depends on you and your colleagues acting henceforth on the premise that water in this area is not an infinite, nor is it truly a renewable, resource.

As one whose household uses $\frac{1}{4}$ of the water it is allowed to use, I urge you to recommend denial of *Rockology's* proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

R. Tobey King

Jose Larranaga

From: alice van buren <avb@swcp.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 12:34 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC,

Dear Mr. Larranaga,

Please do everything within your power to put a halt to this terrible proposition. We are in a serious draught already -- with scarcely enough water for own civilian use. Mining the la Bajada Mesa is a ruinous idea, and the noise, dust and pollution would contaminate us for years and years to come. I live on the southside of the city, not terribly far from the proposed scene of damage.

I and everyone I know are vehemently opposed to this plan. I also work on the radio and plan to broadcast the views of the opposition as widely as possible.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Alice van Buren

Jose Larranaga

From: William deBuys <wdebuys@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:01 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Robert A. Anaya; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics; murlock@raintreecounty.com; diane.senior@gartner.com
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larra,

The current proposal to mine crusher fines from La Bajada basalt is unwise, especially in its approach to water.

The county should be seeking ways to reduce its water obligations, not expand them. Over the decades ahead, water supply for the Santa Fe area will almost certainly decline. This includes local sources as well as imported San Juan-Chama water. For reference you might find my book, *A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest*, to be useful.

The county needs to focus on building its water resilience. The current proposal would consume a considerable amount of water merely for dust suppression. For a region looking at a substantially drier and warmer future, that's a poor use of a valuable and exceedingly finite resource.

Sincerely,

William deBuys

HC 65 Box 201-A
Chamisal, NM 87521
505/689-1021

March 10, 2014

Arnold Valdez
3225 Louraine Circle
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507

Jose Larrañaga
Commercial Development Case Manager
Santa Fe County Growth Management Department
P.O. Box 276
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga:

As a property owner in Santa Fe and former Senior Planner for Santa Fe County I would like to express my objections over the proposed basalt mining operation by Buena Vista Estates and Rockology Limited LLC. In 2008 while working as a planner for Growth Management, I had the responsibility of providing comments and review of the 2008 application. In the 6 years that have lapsed since the 2008 application little has changed with regard of the historic and cultural resources of La Bajada Mesa. I would to briefly reiterate a few key points with regard to the integrity and historical significance of the overall cultural landscape where the mine is being proposed:

❖ Located at the west boundary of Santa Fe County, La Bajada Mesa is considered the gateway to the county and entrance to the Cerrillos Hills/Galisteo Basin State Park via CR S7. Map 5-2 Scenic and Historic Routes from the 2010 Sustainable Growth Management Plan depicts La Bajada Mesa as a Potential Gateway Corridor and is supported by Goal 21 and Policies 21.2, 21.3, 21.4.

o **Goal 21:** Scenic Viewsheds should be preserved and protected as an important resource.

o **Policy 21.2:** Limit development on steep slopes, visible ridges, and peaks.

o **Policy 21.3:** Limit development near prominent natural features such as distinctive rock and land forms, vegetative patterns, river crossings or other landmarks.

o **Policy 21.4:** Preserve distinctive natural features.

❖ The site of the proposed extraction area for construction aggregates is located on La Bajada Mesa, a key landscape demarcation between the Rio Abajo and Rio Arriba regions of Santa Fe and Sandoval Counties.

❖ La Bajada Mesa is a sacred and significant landscape to Kewa and Cochiti Pueblos.

❖ La Bajada Mesa was listed in 2003 as one of the most endangered places in New Mexico by The New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance.

❖ La Bajada Mesa is a significant historic/cultural resource that embodies the early Spanish Colonial historical road alignments amidst a fragile ecological setting.

❖Historically portions of El Camino Real traversed the landscape north and south of the proposed extraction site area (Map 5, El Camino Real Adentro National Historic Trail-Comprehensive Management Plan/Impact Statement).

❖"Camino Real -- La Bajada Mesa Section", was listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties on 12/10/2010 & in the National Register of Historic Places on 4/8/2011.

Additionally, Extraction of construction aggregates within La Bajada Mesa would degrade the integrity of the landscape ecology. The removal of basalt would create scars in the surface leading to erosion. Wildlife would also be impacted, as this area is also a migration corridor for various species. Overall, the historic and physical integrity of La Bajada Mesa would no longer announce the transition from Rio Abajo to Rio Arriba, and the wide open expanse or gateway into the Santa Fe County, rather it would be a public eyesore and visible proof that Santa Fe County is more interested in promoting unsustainable development and letting the developers extract profit at the expense of a monumental landscape.

Please exam the potential irreparable loss of a fragile landscape, damage and costs associated with development that has county wide impacts. I hope that Santa Fe County will stand firmly by the SGMP and directives that far outweigh whether this application is in compliance with zoning standards.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arnold Valdez
Historic Preservation Specialist

Jose Larranaga

From: WildEarth Guardians <action@wildearthguardians.org> on behalf of Ken Gibb
<kengibb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 2:55 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Block Gravel Strip Mining on La Bajada Mesa Now

Mar 11, 2014

Case Manager Jose Larrañaga
NM

Dear Case Manager Larrañaga,

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Please do NOT support a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa because this is part of the historic landmark that the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance (NMHPA) has recognized as one of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places."

In order to mine, they need water, largely to control the dust and air pollution that a strip mine would create. The mine applicants are pursuing at least two avenues.

The first is to secure and transfer water rights from elsewhere in the state. The second, more recent move, proposes to purchase water directly from the county near the prison facility on highway 14 and haul that water to their mining operation on La Bajada Mesa.

The mining application proposes to use almost a million gallons of our increasingly scarce water per year for 25-years, while destroying an iconic landmark and diminishing the quality of life for all county residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ken Gibb
PO Box 11616
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448-3616

Jose Larranaga

From: WildEarth Guardians <action@wildearthguardians.org> on behalf of Robert Rutkowski <r_e_rutkowski@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:57 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Block Gravel Strip Mining on La Bajada Mesa Now
Categories: Red Category

Mar 11, 2014

Case Manager Jose Larrañaga
NM

Dear Case Manager Larrañaga,

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Please do NOT support a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa because this is part of the historic landmark that the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance (NMHPA) has recognized as one of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places."

In order to mine, they need water, largely to control the dust and air pollution that a strip mine would create.

The mining application proposes to use almost a million gallons of our increasingly scarce water per year for 25-years, while destroying an iconic landmark and diminishing the quality of life for all county residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Rutkowski
2527 SE Faxon Ct
Topeka, KS 66605-2086

Jose Larranaga

From: WildEarth Guardians <action@wildearthguardians.org> on behalf of Sandra Haddock <sklenk1@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 5:57 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Block Gravel Strip Mining on La Bajada Mesa Now
Categories: Red Category

Mar 11, 2014

Case Manager Jose Larrañaga
NM

Dear Case Manager Larrañaga,

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Please do NOT support a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa because this is part of the historic landmark that the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance (NMHPA) has recognized as one of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places."

In order to mine, they need water, largely to control the dust and air pollution that a strip mine would create.

The mining application proposes to use almost a million gallons of our increasingly scarce water per year for 25-years, while destroying an iconic landmark and diminishing the quality of life for all county residents and visitors.

You should absolutely not permit any new mining operations in New Mexico. Provide jobs in solar and wind industries instead. My husband and I are planning to purchase a business and relocate there, but have had second thoughts since learning the governor is now for the first time in history been allowing mining operations to pollute groundwater with impunity. This is very alarming, and quite obviously due to corruption. I understand that 2013 was the biggest year for tourism ever in New Mexico. We feel business prospects looked good based on that, but it seems the goals of your extraction industries, to use aquifers as waste water receptacles, are at direct odds with tourism.

Are you really planning to sacrifice the beloved character of New Mexico to become solely a badwater mining/extraction state? It looks that way. We certainly will not purchase property there until this profound breach of the public trust in allowing industry to deliberately pollute the underground water supply.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sandra Haddock
17830 Island Spring Ln
Tomball, TX 77377-8156

Jose Larranaga

From: Julie Weinberg <juliebweinberg@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 9:15 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Greetings,

I am writing in opposition to the application to mine La Bajada Mesa. My husband and I have lived in La Cieneguilla for 32 years. We are opposed to the mine for the following reasons:

1. Environmental degradation of the beautiful and historic landscape that is the gateway to Santa Fe and its environs.
2. Threatens the water supply whether it is county supplied water or water pumped from wells.

Thank you.

Julie B. Weinberg
72 Camino Torcido Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Jose Larranaga

From: Penny Ellis-Green
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 9:24 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Fwd: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Categories: Red Category

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

----- Original Message -----

Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
From: Julie Weinberg <juliebweinberg@comcast.net>
To: Jose Larranaga <joselarra@co.santa-fe.nm.us>
CC: Penny Ellis-Green <pengreen@co.santa-fe.nm.us>, "Stephen C. Ross" <sross@co.santa-fe.nm.us>, "Robert A. Anaya" <ranaya@co.santa-fe.nm.us>, Daniel Mayfield <dmayfield@co.santa-fe.nm.us>, Miguel Chavez <mchavez@co.santa-fe.nm.us>, "Kathy S. Holian" <kholian@co.santa-fe.nm.us>, Liz Stefanics <lstefanics@co.santa-fe.nm.us>

Greetings,

I am writing in opposition to the application to mine La Bajada Mesa. My husband and I have lived in La Cieneguilla for 32 years. We are opposed to the mine for the following reasons:

1. Environmental degradation of the beautiful and historic landscape that is the gateway to Santa Fe and its environs.
2. Threatens the water supply whether it is county supplied water or water pumped from wells.

Thank you.

Julie B. Weinberg
72 Camino Torcido Loop
Santa Fe, NM 87507

El Vadito de los Cerrillos

WATER ASSOCIATION

March 11, 2014

Jose Larrañaga
Development Case Manager
Santa Fe County Land Use Dept.

CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga:

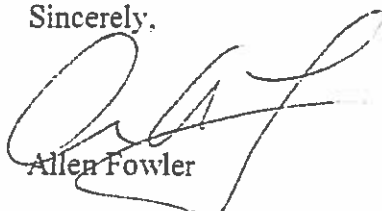
As a water association that provides potable water to people living in the Cerrillos area, we are especially aware of water issues and the ephemeral nature of this vital resource. We recognize that this holds true even with such imported sources as the County now has. In this critical time of drought and reduced aquifer recharge, the County will need to exercise caution in allocating its limited water supplies.

As a matter of fact, El Vadito was dependent on County water for several months in 2003 when our water source failed. We are truly grateful that the County came to our rescue. However, our need was for potable water for the several hundred residents of the Cerrillos area, not for non-potable uses that the Rockology mining company has applied for and is being considered by the County.

We wish to go on record in strong opposition to the proposed use of County water to be hauled to the Rockology mine site on La Bajada Mesa, most of which would be used primarily for non-potable purposes. We believe that the proposed use—heavy industrial mining of a landmark—is not in the best interest of the citizens of Santa Fe County and New Mexico.

The County should have a policy that does not allow such indiscriminate use of its scarce water resources.

Sincerely,



Allen Fowler

Ecotone

Conservation Planning for Landscapes in Transition

1413 Second Street, Suite 5
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
505-470-2531
jwjansens@gmail.com

March 11, 2014

Jose Larrañaga
Commercial Development Case Manager
Santa Fe County Growth Management Department
P.O. Box 276
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larrañaga:

I am writing as a Santa Fe County resident and a landscape ecology and planning professional to express my concerns about the proposed basalt mining operation by Buena Vista Estates and Rockology Limited LLC on La Bajada Mesa. I have studied and worked in the area for about 20 years and have (co)authored several reports about landscape values, wetland systems, and watershed restoration strategies for areas ranging from the Galisteo Basin to entire Santa Fe County. Various conclusions from these studies have a bearing on the proposed mine area.

In brief, in my opinion, the proposed mine undertaking would negatively affect landscape quality in an area where the larger Santa Fe community cannot afford this. Chances are too great that the undertaking would create cumulative negative impacts to the local economy, landscape integrity, and ecological conditions and processes throughout a wider region. My concerns comprise:

- **Established community and County planning goals and policies** have documented the importance of a rural landscape that maintain the cultural, historical and ecological values of the place, while the proposed mine appears to negatively affect these treasured values
- **Landscape integrity for wildlife and other ecosystem functions** and risks of fragmentation on the needs for wildlife to roam freely in order to maintain ecological landscape functions and maintain genetic diversity and individual survival over time
- **Surface and groundwater use** with effects on wetlands and on the equitably use of water in the County during times of increasing needs of fair and productive water uses and water sharing
- **Scenic and cultural/historical values** of the area, including visual quality of the landscape, clear skies and night sky qualities
- **Economic benefits** from our cultural and ecological landscape, including scenic landscape values, sense of wildness, and heritage and spiritual qualities of the landscape.

Established Community and County Planning Goals and Policies

During visioning sessions in 2004 (documented in “Galisteo Watershed Conservation Initiative – Quality of Life at a Crossroads”, 2010) and again during planning sessions for the Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP) of 2010, many people living in the Galisteo Basin have expressed what they appreciate about this area. The County’s SGMP adopted a great variety of policy goals and strategies that support the community’s vision. Key points include the area’s rural character, peace and quiet, ecological resources, scenic landscape, night sky, and cultural and historical resources. The proposed mine project is not in line with these treasured community values and with many of the SGMP’s policies and strategies.

Landscape Integrity for Wildlife and Other Ecosystem Functions

The La Bajada Mesa is part of a vital wildlife corridor, or rather a large wildlife linkage area, between the Manzano and Sandia Mountains to the south and the Jemez and Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the north. The area is also a pivotal corridor for wildlife traveling from the eastern parts of the Galisteo Basin to the west, across the Rio Grande, to the Jemez Mountains and vice versa. Furthermore, an international consortium of wildlife organizations and conservation biology scientists has identified the Galisteo Basin – also known as the Galisteo Wildway – as one of 20 crucial and endangered areas in the Western Wildway, a chain of wildlife linkages across the spine of the continent between Sonora State, Mexico, and Alaska. Ongoing wildlife and vehicle collisions in the area (and those documented by NM DOT in 2001) and wildlife observations on cameras on Santo Domingo Pueblo have documented this corridor. The corridor was confirmed by the NM Department of Game and Fish as part of the 2009-2010 Western Governors Association’s wildlife corridors initiative and included on the County’s natural resources map of the SGMP of 2010. The corridor is of importance to many species, and especially to large mammals, such as black bear, mule deer, cougar, coyotes, foxes, and many rodents and smaller animals, and possibly pronghorn antelope and elk. The proposed mine undertaking and associated road activity, lighting, noise, and water extraction from a wider area would fragment the landscape and disturb ecosystem functions necessary for shelter, safe passage, and foraging conditions for many animals, effectively threatening the potential for wildlife to freely roam the landscape. Animal movement is essential for their survival and for maintaining ecological resilience on the land with effects on a regional and continental scale.

Surface and Groundwater Use

The use of water at a rate of a million gallons a year for 25 years, from County sources along State Highway 14, would likely impact already limited surface and groundwater resources in Santa Fe County. Diversions of water from well fields along Highway 14 would reduce groundwater flows to the north through Alamo Creek and Bonanza Creek, which feed springs and wetlands in the la Cienega area which are of vital importance to ecosystem functions there and to Acequia-fed agriculture in the traditional community of La Cienega. Hence, the undertaking would compete with already stressed water needs for local agriculture and local domestic wells and weaken initiatives by Santa Fe County and the local community to grow and market more local food. If the water were taken from combined sources, such as provided through pipelines and the Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD), the water diversion for the mine

undertaking would further limit water supplies for residential use in parts of Santa Fe County that already experience structural water shortages. Groundwater has been mined for more than 40 years and continues to be mined at low levels, and more so in dry years, despite the BDD and conjunctive use policies. The mechanics for groundwater and surface water flows and depletions in the area are well studied and were recently documented in various reports, such as the NMED document "Exploring Springs and Wetlands and their Relationship with Surface Flows, Geology, and Groundwater in the La Cienega Area of Santa Fe County" by McGraw and Jansens (2012).

Scenic and Cultural/Historical Values

The La Bajada Mesa is an area of significant cultural, historical, and scenic importance in the State of New Mexico. The area is well studied, and while there may have been few findings of cultural, historical, or spiritual value at the immediate mining site, the impact of the mine on areas and trails of cultural and historical value in the vicinity of the site will be significant and damaging to the local economy and our community's wellbeing. Additionally, the visual quality of the La Bajada landscape is of great importance as a gateway to Santa Fe and as a viewshed area of national stature. Coupled with the widely cherished values of clear skies and dark night skies in Santa Fe County, the disturbance of the qualities these values represent would significantly affect the regional economy and the sense of wellbeing in our local community.

Economic Benefits

Given the threats the mine undertaking poses to local quality of life, ecological resilience, landscape integrity for wildlife movement, water supplies and associated agricultural and ecological uses, and the tourist-related scenic, cultural and historical qualities our the landscape, approval of the mine would constitute great economic unfairness. There is a great likelihood that many local constituents would personally and in their business endeavors be affected by the mine, while the mining operation itself would not substantially contribute to the local job market and local economy. In fact, many commonly-held landscape commodities with their associated economic values would be sacrificed for the benefit of one single economic endeavor with few beneficiaries who mostly reside outside our local community.

Based on the concerns described above, I strongly urge Santa Fe County's Development Review Committee and Board of County Commissioners to reject the proposal for mine development on La Bajada Mesa. I thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Jansens', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jan-Willem Jansens

Resident of Santa Fe County
Owner/Principal of Ecotone

Jose Larranaga

From: WildEarth Guardians <action@wildearthguardians.org> on behalf of Lola Misirlic <lmisirlic@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 6:28 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Block Gravel Strip Mining on La Bajada Mesa Now
Categories: Red Category

Mar 12, 2014

Case Manager Jose Larrañaga
NM

Dear Case Manager Larrañaga,

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Please do NOT support a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa because this is part of the historic landmark that the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance (NMHPA) has recognized as one of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places."

In order to mine, they need water, largely to control the dust and air pollution that a strip mine would create.

The mining application proposes to use almost a million gallons of our increasingly scarce water per year for 25-years, while destroying an iconic landmark and diminishing the quality of life for all county residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Miss Lola Misirlic
Brankova 18/2
Belgrade, None 11000

Jose Larrañaga, Case Manager
Santa Fe County
POB 276
Santa Fe, NM 87504

March 12, 2014

Re: CDRC CASE # Z/DMXT 13-5360 Buena Vista and Rockology LLC Application to Mine La Bajada Mesa

As a resident and voter, I write to oppose the application before the County of Santa Fe to permit a gravel strip mine on the top of La Bajada Mesa. Please add this statement to the information being presented to the CDRC.

The picture below shows La Bajada Mesa from a location to the southeast. This historic landmark would be permanently degraded if this application is approved.



Historian William Baxter says about La Bajada, "There is no more important geographical landmark in our State, and none with more historical significance." Yet the proposed mine would defile this historic, cultural, and scenic landmark for gravel. Mining operations would include 25 years of blasting, crushers, screeners, conveyors, truck traffic, and night-time lighting in a currently undeveloped and highly visible location. In return, the application estimates only seven full time jobs and \$122,500 annual gross receipts tax, a number which a leading economist feels is considerably overstated.

Mining requires water. Unconscionably, the County has agreed to sell nearly a million gallons per year of scarce, potable water for mining operations and for dust control. This water would be hauled by truck from the County Water Utilities on Hwy 14 to the mine site on the mesa.

The mining operations would impact near-by wildlife corridors and would be highly visible to local residents and to visitors. Viewscapes affected include dozens of miles surrounding the site, the I-25 "Gateway to Santa Fe", Waldo Canyon Road (the gateway to Cerrillos Hills State Park and the Galisteo parklands), the Turquoise Trail Scenic By-way, and places along the historic Camino Real de Adentro (the Spanish Colonial trade route to Mexico City, now overseen by the National Park Service and BLM.)

Contrast this proposal with the Caja Del Rio Quarry which already produces basalt gravel for the County. That quarry uses piped effluent water, is well-situated near the county landfill, and will create a cavity that might later be filled with county refuse. There simply is no need for another gravel mine. Current supplies of gravel from operations elsewhere in the County far exceed demand. The County should not permit a new strip mine to mar La Bajada Mesa when other, more sensible options, already exist.

Here are some of the factors that make it critical for you to deny this proposed strip mine application:

- The application estimates using 18 million gallons of potable water for mining operations over 25 years. However, this may be a gross underestimate of the amount that would be needed in this windy, dusty place, based on information from other comparable mining operations.
- The sale of potable water for private mining and industrial purposes is an unconscionable precedent for the County to establish. This is not the best use of a diminishing water resource that will be critical to meet the future needs of all residents.
- If the County agrees to rezone these 50 acres for mining, then the adjacent lands on top of the mesa would become undesirable for less intrusive and intensive uses. Approval would establish a precedent to engulf more of the mesa in destructive mining, which is likely the applicants' intent. Previously denied applications sought mining zones up to two miles long on the mesa top.
- This proposal rushes to establish this mining zone use before the new Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan takes effect, and before action can be completed on a proposed National Monument status for La Bajada Mesa.
- For 25 years, dust from the mining activities would affect surrounding properties and those downwind for miles. This includes the highly-regarded Cerrillos Hills State Park, from whose planned gateway (Waldo Canyon Road) the proposed operations would be fully visible.
- The ongoing noise from the blasting, digging, grinding, and pulverizing of the basalt cap into gravel would significantly change the pervading quiet in the Cerrillos Hills State Park and for property owners for dozens of miles around this proposed operation. Light pollution from security lights at night will also be an unwelcome intrusion.
- The costs of maintaining County, State, and Interstate roads from the pounding of mine and water trucks for 25 years would be paid by taxpayers for the private benefit of the applicants.
- The benefits to the County and the local economy are minimal. The application estimates only seven jobs, and its estimate of \$122,500 in gross receipts taxes has been challenged as significantly overstated.
- The proposed site borders important wildlife corridors and sits within the Galisteo Watershed. It is flanked by two drainages, with the Galisteo Creek below leading to the Rio Grande.
- Finally, tourism is an important part of our economy. Tourists don't come to see strip mines.

I am asking the County to deny this application. Similar applications have been denied several times previously, and the fundamental issues have not changed. La Bajada Mesa is an important historic, cultural, and natural landmark, prominently visible for miles, that deserves to be protected and preserved for the benefit of all residents and visitors, not strip-mined to enrich a few individuals.

Thank you for your consideration

Don Van Doren
317B Camino Cerro Chato
Madrid, NM 87010
dvandoren@vanguard.net
505-216-6612

Jose Larranaga

From: Jack Wikselaar <jackwikselaar@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 8:23 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Categories: Red Category

Mr Larranaga,

My property of 163 acres borders Buena Vista Estates and as an adjacent landowner I take serious exception to their proposed plans for extraction of Basalt. Not only would the presence of a large scale mining operation significantly reduce the value of my property it would forever change the area in a negative way for many reasons some of which are:

1. DUST- Our area is very windy and additional dust would reduce visibility and may create health issues. The amount of water proposed for dust abatement may not be sufficient and my fear is that water would eventually be extracted from our fragile and limited aquifer.
2. DESTRUCTION OF VIEW - The grand and sweeping vista of La Bajada Mesa would be blighted by a large scale mining operation. The natural beauty of the Mesa would be lost.
3. NOISE - Already I must contend with the noise generated by the current mining operation in this area. The addition of a second operation would I fear significantly increase the noise level and echo throughout Waldo Canyon.

Finally, while I understand Buena Vista Estates desire to maximize the value of their property I contend that a basalt mine is not the highest and best use for this property. With its grand views, location within the I-25 Rio Grande corridor and the Rail Runner passing through the middle of their property, clearly a residential development would be of greater value and one that the property is already zoned for.

Regards,
Jack Wikselaar

Jose Larranaga

From: WildEarth Guardians <action@wildearthguardians.org> on behalf of Sandra Jackson <kayaker2wa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 8:28 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Block Gravel Strip Mining on La Bajada Mesa Now
Categories: Red Category

Mar 12, 2014

Case Manager Jose Larrañaga
NM

Dear Case Manager Larrañaga,

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Please do NOT support a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa because this is part of the historic landmark that the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance (NMHPA) has recognized as one of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places."

In order to mine, they need water, largely to control the dust and air pollution that a strip mine would create.

The mining application proposes to use almost a million gallons of our increasingly scarce water per year for 25-years, while destroying an iconic landmark and diminishing the quality of life for all county residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sandra Jackson
4 Antigua Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87508-2200

Jose Larranaga

From: Claudia LeSueur <mspopplersalpacafun@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 9:37 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: STOP Mining proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. Larranaga,

I'm a property owner off Hwy 14 and a tax payer and I am against the proposed strip mining for basalt gravel in La Bajada Mesa.

Aside from the mine being an unnecessary business (there are several gravel pits in the area already), the amount of water this project would use would deprive about 250 families of much-needed water (average home with family of four uses 3000 gallons/month) in this DROUGHT-STRICKEN area.

We need this water to survive or families and businesses will move away - and then what will you have?

Let's use our time and money to develop renewable resources - wind or solar power - and stop acting like the environment doesn't matter.

Please DO NOT APPROVE this measure! Buena Vista/Rockology LLC knew how this land was zoned when they bought it and must assume responsibility for that. Let's leave it as it stands and find other ways to bring in prosperity to Santa Fe County.

Sincerely,

Claudia LeSueur
Mrs. Poppler's Alpaca Ranch
18B Cedar Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87508

P.S. My Alpaca are a perfect example of sustainable agriculture - they provide fiber for flame-retardant and hypo-allergenic clothing while they are very gentle on the environment. Let's encourage sustainability!

Jose Larranaga

From: Tara Bloyd <tabloyd@quotidian.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Categories: Red Category

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition of the proposed basalt gravel mine on La Bajada Mesa. Not only is the mesa listed as one of New Mexico's most endangered places, and thus inherently worth saving, but there are many other issues with the proposed mine that also make refusing it simply the only logical choice.

Mining in this site would result in environmental and cultural degradation of a landscape that has been historically, culturally and environmentally significant to New Mexico for hundreds of years. Reclamation would be next to impossible after stripping some 20 feet of basalt. There is little surface topsoil to set aside for reclamation. There are no strong standards to insure that reclamation would be a success and there is the likelihood that what would be left behind would be an endless source of dust. As those of us who live here know, we've already got plenty of dust!

The mine (or any similar industry), poorly sited on an otherwise open landscape, would result in impacts including: increased pollution from carbon emissions; fugitive dust from multiple crushers, conveyors and heavy industrial traffic; and blasting and night lighting. That would make living and/or driving anywhere in the vicinity significantly less pleasant than it is now. And for what, gravel? There is no need for another basalt gravel mine in the County or another gravel mining operation off of I-25. There are several existing gravel mines within reasonable proximity that can provide these materials to Rockology.

I haven't even touched upon the impact on the Cerrillos Hills State Park, the area's already incredibly limited water supply, the county's growth strategy, and the many other reasons that declining the mine is simply the only choice.

Please do the right thing and deny this mine.

Thank you,

**Tara Bloyd
PO Box 818
Cerrillos, NM 87010
505-473-5714**

Good mothers let their children lick the beaters.
Great mothers turn the mixer off first.

Jose Larranaga

From: Senior,Diane <Diane.Senior@gartner.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 11:38 AM
To: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Robert A. Anaya; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics; Jose Larranaga
Cc: Don Van Doren; 'Ross Lockridge'; 'Kim Sorvig'; Matthew McQueen
Subject: CDRC CASE # Z/DMXT 13-5360 Buena Vista and Rockology LLC Application to mine La Bajada Mesa
Attachments: RCA_Submittal_Final.pdf
Importance: High
Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. Larrañaga,

Attached is a letter from the Rural Conservation Alliance in opposition to the proposed mining operations on La Bajada mesa. This letter details many of the issues that we and other citizens have with this application.

We understand that you have received many letters about this issue, and that you are assembling a package to go to the CDRC members. We ask that the attached letter be prominently featured, as this was planned to be the most comprehensive review of the issues.

Please share the letter with the CDRC Commissioners and include it in the case file. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ross Lockridge, Ann Murray, Kim Sorvig, Don Van Doren and Diane Senior for the RCA

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Rural Conservation Alliance, POB 245, Cerrillos, NM 87010

Jose Larrañaga, Case Manager
Santa Fe County
POB 276
Santa Fe, NM 87504

March 12, 2014

Re: CDRC CASE # Z/DMXT 13-5360 Buena Vista and Rockology LLC Application to mine La Bajada Mesa—Reasons for our opposition to this application.

Dear Mr. Larrañaga,

The Rural Conservation Alliance (RCA) is an unincorporated association of community organizations and individuals dedicated to the preservation and protection of the natural resources and rural character of the Galisteo Basin area of Santa Fe County, New Mexico.

We request that County Staff recommend denial of the 2013 Buena Vista /Rockology application to locate a mining zone on a significant New Mexico cultural landscape, for many of the same reasonable and legal rationales that Staff recommended denial of the applicant's two previous applications in 2005 and 2008. In addition to reasons for denial that Staff recognized in the prior applications, we believe that this application should also be denied based on:

- Inadequate water budgeted for mining operations and dust control
- Incompatibility with other land uses
- Negative economic impact for the County
- An irresponsible use of water that sets inappropriate precedents for the future
- Degradation of important ecological and wildlife areas
- Threats to the health and welfare of County residents
- Application deficiencies, and inaccurate, incomplete or misleading statements

The following report addresses these issues in detail. We urge the County of Santa Fe to carefully consider these issues and issue a recommendation to deny the application to strip mine this precious natural, historic and cultural resource.

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Rationale for Prior Denials Remains Unchanged

County Staff recommends denial, 2005

When a 108 acre site was requested in approximately the same location as the current application, the New Mexican reported that Case Planer Dominic Gonzalez's memorandum advised, "this location is not compatible or suitable for mining" and that the "1,060-acre tract . . . is too close to the county's Cerrillos Hills Historic Park [previous name] and to Buffalo Head Mountain." The article noted that both La Bajada Mesa and Buffalo Mountain are recognized by the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance as being among the state's Most Endangered Places. This memo is evidently missing from the County case file. However, a copy of the draft, dated 9/18/2005, with the language as quoted, is located in the Appendix, pp. 18-24.

County Staff recommends denial, 2008

When an "initial" 50 acre mine zone was requested in exactly the same location as the current application, Staff again recommended denial, stating: "[W]hen considering the criteria set forth in Article XI, Section 1.2.2 the proposed location is not reasonably compatible with the area and is not particularly suitable for mining as required by Article XI, Section 1.2.4." [Emphasis in original] And: "The reclamation needs associated with a project of this magnitude, landscaping needed to buffer the visibility of the project, and water required for long-term dust control requires a sustainable water supply..." "[S]taff does not support the use of trucked in water".

Water Issues

Unsupported Estimates of Water Usage

The applicant has provided no support for their calculation that 2.19 acre feet per year (713,615 gallons) would be sufficient for dust suppression. As Mining Engineer Jim Kuipers has written, "Under moderate duty approximately 20 gpm [gallons per minute] would be consumed per crusher and associated drop points (e.g., conveyor transfer points). Depending on the spray system, material properties, wind, shrouding and other factors this can be as low as 10 gpm and as high as 50 gpm or more." In dry, windy conditions this could be even more, and the mesa top is notoriously windy.

The application's statement of 5 crushers and 4 screeners implies that two systems will be in operation. If we assume that these are used 40 hours per week, then the actual water required is shown in the following table:

	Usage rate	Gal / min	Gal/ year *	Applicant's estimate	Discrepancy in Gal
One system	low	10	1,248,000	713,614	534,386
	high	50	6,240,000	same	5,526,386
Two systems	low	10	2,496,000	same	1,782,386
	high	50	12,480,000	same	11,766,386

Gal/year per system = Gal/min x 60 min/hr x 40 hrs/week x 52 weeks/year.

Even under the most conservative estimates (10 gallons per minute, 40 hours per week excellent shrouding, and for one system), falls short of engineer Kuiper's calculations by over a half-million gallons, requiring 75% more water than estimated in the application. Two systems (as implied by the quantity of equipment listed) will use **three times more water than stated in the application**. In addition, there is no estimate for other ancillary needs for water. For example, dust control of dry, disturbed soil at the mine site, or the water required to establish vegetation to reclaim a wind-scoured and deeply pitted mesa. The applicant's estimates are merely the water requirements for the crushing equipment alone.

Implications of County-provided Potable Water Industries Not Requiring Drinkable Water

The application states that the water for mining operations will be provided by the County potable water dispensary on NM 14. This water has been acquired and treated at public expense, and this operation has absolutely no need for water meeting drinking standards. However, the idea that the County would provide millions of gallons of water – especially drinking water – for this purpose in these times of water shortage is unconscionable. In addition, we believe that, in doing so, the County would establish a poorly-considered precedent. In the future, any industrial applicant could demand a similar accommodation.

The application's approach to obtaining water also impacts households and other water-users who will have to wait at the County facilities to obtain water. The County facility can deliver water at 185 gpm. Assuming a 2,000 gallon capacity, the applicant's water trucks would block access to other vehicles for almost estimated two hours each day including hookup, dispensing, and disconnect time.

The way the water agreement was documented is also problematic. The County acknowledges that "...this project is outside of our service area." The "willing and able" letters to provide bulk water services were signed by an Accountant and affirmed by an Engineering Associate. There is no indication that there was any substantive analysis of this request or its implications. The letter is unconditional; There is no acknowledgement of the mine's 25 year timeline, nor limits, such as in times of drought when water shortages could demand that scarce water resources be reserved for higher priority uses such as the household requirements of residents.

If dust is to be adequately controlled, monthly usage of water would go up, above the applicant's estimates, during hot or dry months and any other times of drought, and are thus under-estimated in their table on p. 19 of the application, which shows water usage in the hot, dry months of summer months to be less than a quarter of what would be used in the spring. Amplifying the problem, during these same hot or dry periods, surface water supplies would diminish overall, and demand from other users would increase.

Application Deficiencies

Location Standards for Article XI, Section 1.2 Have Not Been Met

Article XI, Section 1.2 requires the applicant to demonstrate evidence that the proposal meets four criteria. The application adequately addresses only the first of these, 1.2.1, and even on that criterion questions remain. Article XI requires that all four criteria be met.

1.2.1 Evidence of significant mineral resources.

The application presents core sample analysis showing the presence of basalt that will be crushed into aggregate. There is some question about the quality of the basalt and whether it will be the most suitable product for its stated purposes. The specific gravity of the material shown in the application is 2.69, which is less dense than typical basalt measurements of 2.8-3.0¹

1.2.2 Mining use is reasonably compatible with existing uses

Mining use of this land is diametrically opposed to and incompatible with historical, cultural and recreational uses. Among those are the historical and cultural significance of the site and the area's status as a gateway to both Santa Fe and to the Galisteo Basin parklands. Published comments by two historians characterize the mesa this way:

"La Bajada Mesa in northern New Mexico contains cultural, historical, environmental, and scenic features of considerable significance, all worthy of permanent preservation."
--Marc Simmons, Ph.D. (U.N.M., ret.), July 4, 2012.

"There is no more important geographical landmark of our state, and none with more historical significance." --William Baxter, Sept. 4, 2005.

In 2003, the New Mexico Preservation Alliance ranked La Bajada Mesa as one of its Most Endangered Places, a list which included such landmarks as Chaco Canyon.

This Mesa also gives context to El Camino Real Historic Trail. One of the best preserved remnants of this federally-designated National Historic Trail is located on land directly adjacent to the proposed mine site. Previous reports that the pit would be invisible are based on extremely limited analysis from a very small number of viewpoints. More comprehensive analysis shows that a SE branch of this historic trail, the Juana Lopez segment, passes directly within view of the proposed 50 acre pit. (Appendix Figure 2, p.26.)

"A portion of the newly federal-designated Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail either passes directly over land within the mining project or over adjacent lands. The escarpment itself has a long history associated with early travel, and the massive earth removal, as proposed, threatens to seriously compromise not only the viewscape from Interstate 25, but also the cultural and natural integrity of the La Bajada feature." --Historian, Marc Simmons, Ph.D, Nov. 12, 2002

The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail is part of the historic Spanish colonial route that linked Mexico City to Santa Fe and beyond.

Further, in spite of the applicant's attempt to paint a picture of an area rampant with mining, the proposed mining zone is not located in an established mining zone but is adjacent to the historic Cerrillos Mining District, a NM State Cultural Property. The historic 1880s "Cerrillos Mining District" (CMD) was placed on the State Register of Cultural Properties in 1973, due to its association with a historic precedent of the California Gold rush.. It is NOT a mining zone and has no legal status as such. See "*Historic CMD, A New Mexico 'Cultural Property'--not a mine zone*" at <http://www.raintreecounty.com/CMD.html>

Land use for mining here is incompatible with historical, cultural and recreational uses in the adjoining areas. As such, the application can and should be denied under Article XI, 1.2.2. This was part of the rationale for denial in 2008 and it remains unchanged today.

1.2.3 History of significant mining in the area

As stated above, there is no such history for this area of La Bajada. Permitting this application would entail the creation of a completely new mining zone without a history of mining. While legally possible under The Land Development Code, the applicants have no protected right to demand such a zoning change, and such a zone is as stated incompatible with surrounding land uses, as well as with virtually all strategic visions produced by the County in long-term planning.

1.2.4 Particularly suited for mining uses compared to other areas

This area is particularly *not* suited for mining, as discussed above under 1.2.2. Moreover, there are many other areas far more suitable for mining basalt-based aggregate. In particular, the Caja Del Rio mine currently operated by Delhur Industries already produces basalt gravel within the County. That quarry uses piped (not truck-hauled) effluent water, is well-situated near the county landfill, and its mining cavity might later be filled with county refuse. According to its manager, (See A. Murray letter, 1/15/2014) this quarry contains approximately 3.5 million cubic yards of basalt or a projected ten-year supply.

There is no need for additional production of gravel. Figures from the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals Natural Resources show that Santa Fe County alone produced an oversupply of more than 107,000 tons of gravel and base course over the past five years. It is worth noting that these over-production figures do not include the additional production and stockpiles at the Caja de Rio quarry.

These figures contradict Buena Vista's claim that a shortage of aggregate sources in the area necessitates aggregate being "hailed in [to the Santa Fe area] from outlying sources to meet market demand". If materials are being hauled in from elsewhere, it is likely a price consideration rather than one of availability.

Slow construction across all sectors since 2008 has decreased demand for aggregate and related materials, and is likely to remain depressed for several more years. Industry estimates in some cases are still using figures from before 2008, over-stating demand. In addition, mobile on-site crushing and recycling of old road surfacing for use as new aggregate is becoming an increasingly widespread and economically viable practice, especially by reducing the volume of demolition rubble, which is a concern for Santa Fe County like all other landfill operators. (See

recycledaggregateproducts.com for a nearby example.) Such concrete recycling further reduces demand for new-mined aggregate, and is likely to continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

In addition, the applicant claims, without substantiation, that the “quality of the aggregate pits in the Santa Fe area generally does not meet the requirements for these types of construction projects” (p.1 of application). Nor do they offer any evidence that the basalt they propose to mine is itself suited to meet those requirements. In fact, the application states that the specific gravity the basalt they would be mining (2.69) to be less dense than typical ranges for basalt (2.8-3.0)².

Application Lacks a Visibility Study

The application, at this writing, lacks a credible study of the visual impact of the mining operations, including equipment, piles of material, dust, and lights. Visibility is of critical importance because of its impacts on Santa Fe's existing economic bases of tourism, the arts, real estate, film-making, and on air quality regularly listed as among the nation's highest. Dust has impacts on visibility and health, night and day.

Visibility from Waldo Canyon Road, the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway, and locations to the south of the mesa must be assessed along with views from I-25, the Railrunner, and the SE branch of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. Each of these, except Waldo, is a major gateway for any of the 5 million or more Albuquerque airline passengers annually who visit Santa Fe, as well as motorists not arriving by air.³ Waldo Canyon Road is designated to be the gateway to the acclaimed Cerrillos Hills State Park and the Galisteo Parklands.

Application Lacks a Blasting Impact Study

The application lacks any site-specific study on blasting but simply includes a brochure from the blasting subcontractor. There is no consideration or analysis of site-specific impacts of noise upon neighboring uses or wildlife, for whom this area is an important migration corridor. (The Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP) displays “Conceptual Major Wildlife Corridors” provided by NM Game & Fish Dept. that show the area of Applicant's site surrounded by the corridors.⁴ In addition, the upper Rio Grande watershed area including the Galisteo Basin and La Bajada is designated by Wildlands Network as one of the twenty most important wildlife linkages on the North American continent. (Appendix Figure 1, p.25.) This impact study should also include consideration of the detrimental effects that noise pollution and dust would have on tourism and park visitation.

Reclamation Plan is Insubstantial

The reclamation plan refers only to 4-6 inches of topsoil to be put aside in stockpiles, much of which will have been lost over the years to wind. As the archeological survey notes, “in some places the soils are eroding away, revealing cobbly basalt intrusions through the thin surface soils”. Elsewhere in this report it is noted that “the location is exposed to scouring winds blowing across La Bajada Mesa.”

The application states that “Finished stockpile material will be located in an area that is protected as much as possible from the prevailing winds.” This is entirely unrealistic and inadequate. How

can stockpiles be protected from the scouring winds, and seasonal winds that blow above the open mesa and through an open pit? Where is there such a protective place? The plans to use retention blankets on the seeded areas does not apply to stockpiles. Even if the pile(s) were eventually placed in the pit, the wind would be drawn through the pit carrying the topsoil dust with them.

The amount of topsoil needed for reclamation is not addressed. There is no assessment of what amount might be sufficient for reseeding. But in any estimation, the small amount of topsoil put aside seems woefully insufficient to the task at hand and draws into question the probable success of reclaiming a 60' deep mine site.

Best practices in the landscape construction industry⁵ discourage soil stockpiling for more than one month; piles must be no deeper than four feet, covered, and kept moist. Soil is a living material, and the microbes that give it the ability to support vegetation and retain water and nutrients die if these guidelines are not followed. The application does not take any of these issues into account. It is highly unlikely that the applicant would follow these guidelines, nor could do so without additional water and other investments. As such, stockpiling is offered as a gesture, but would fail to protect the site. In fact, it would increase dust problems when incorrectly attempted.

Erosion Is Not Adequately Addressed

The question of erosion also needs critical consideration. The application says on p.15 that a "borrow ditch will be cut on each side of the road to manage storm water." With only 4 to 6 inches depth to basalt surface, borrow ditches would either be inadequate for the volume of runoff, or would have to be blasted from rock. Inadequate stormwater management will create serious problems on and off the mine site, potentially including siltation increases in the Galisteo Creek and Rio Grande. Erosion and Sedimentation control is required by Federal law (NPDES) for every site over 1 acre in size.

Application Lacks a Dust Mitigation Plan

Fugitive dust is a particular issue in the proposed area but no mitigation plan has been presented.

According to OSHA, "crystalline silica has been classified as a human lung carcinogen. Additionally, breathing crystalline silica dust can cause silicosis, which in severe cases can be disabling, or even fatal. The respirable silica dust enters the lungs and causes the formation of scar tissue, thus reducing the lungs' ability to take in oxygen. There is no cure for silicosis. Since silicosis affects lung function, it makes one more susceptible to lung infections like tuberculosis."

Dust production in this dry, windy, exposed location is a public health hazard and the County has an obligation to require substantial dust mitigation measures that will protect the health of its residents.

Economics

Questionable Economic Benefits

Under Economic Benefits, the application claims assumes it will sell 250,000 tons of material and generate \$122,500 in gross receipts tax. Yet later, on p.11 of the application, it states, “886 thousand cubic yards will be exported from the site and sold on the open market.” Since only retail sales at the mine would be taxable, the county would not recognize the benefits originally stated. Further, under a later section entitled Operation Plan/Time Frame, we will show that the application’s production figures themselves do not add up, further diminishing the County’s prospects of realizing any significant economic benefit from the proposed mine.

Within today’s aggregate industry, “local” can easily encompass several counties. When NMDOT needed base course for a Turquoise Trail reconstruction project (Madrid to Lone Butte), it came from outside of Santa Fe County. That was because Lafarge North America underbid others, including the Waldo Quarry, located 2 miles ESE of the applicant’s proposed site. Evidently the Lafarge source was local enough for NMDOT. The applicant’s implication that “local” sources would reduce costs for County Public Works and for contractors is unfounded, since out-of-county and even out-of-state suppliers, whose costs include *more* transport, are regularly able to outbid local sources.

Other mines on Buena Vista's list reinforce the point that another aggregate mine in this location is not needed, as do the excess production figures noted earlier.

Since the applicant has not clearly established the need, or economic demand for another quarry, the application’s “Economic Benefits” (p. 2) become questionable. Another mine in an undemanding market would simply undercut the business of existing mines and, as a result, contribute little economic benefit to the State and County. The same applies to jobs, since jobs threatened at existing operations would cancel out the already small number of estimated new jobs.

Negative Impact on Neighboring, Sustainable Economic Activities

Siting a mine in as prominent a location as La Bajada Mesa threatens the local tourist industry and the Cerrillos Hills State Park. The “Cerrillos Hills/Galisteo Basin State Parks Feasibility Study”, 2006, indicates that “the best access [to the Cerrillos Hills State Park] would be from the I-25 corridor”, i.e. via Waldo Canyon Road. This new and growing sustainable parkland resource needs to be protected and nourished, not burdened with a strip mine on its gateway access road.

In addition, the arts economy, film-making, and the property value and tax base derived from quality real-estate with clear air and vistas are essential parts of the Santa Fe economy which would be diminished by a large mining operation on this major gateway.

Recreation impacts are also important to our economy. Visitors to NM national parks and monuments spend millions of dollars, both in the parks and surrounding communities⁶ and this revenue supports a thousand jobs in the state. Recognition of the value of Cerrillos Hills State

Park is growing on a national scale. The park was recently listed in The Guardian, US as one of New Mexico's top 10 national and state parks.⁷

Since the mining application on La Bajada in 2005, the County Park has become an acclaimed State Park. This makes it all the more important to reaffirm Staff's recommendation on earlier applications and to deny this current application.

La Bajada Mesa itself contributes to the landscape that attracts millions annually to this state and specifically to Santa Fe. Strip mining would permanently end that contribution and any future sustainable development in the mesa area.

Questionable Estimate of Jobs

The application claims their operation will generate 7 full-time jobs. Yet a comparable gravel operation near Cerrillos employed only 3 persons full time with 2 more part time.

BV/Rockology's estimate of seven jobs appears to assume boom times. No assurance has been made that these are new jobs, nor that hiring preference would be given to County residents. Even seven jobs are a poor trade-off when weighed against the long term damage that a poorly sited mining operation would do present and future sustainable economic benefits.

Potential Expansion of Mining

The current application is the third such proposal from these owners for a strip mine on the top of La Bajada Mesa, by the same owners (operating under two different corporate names.) The proposed site is "surrounded by land owned by the co-applicant for the project." Buena Vista claims 1,358 acres. This land is part of a 5,421 acre parcel currently up for sale by CBRE, marketed as including "5,200 +/- acres of rich aggregate deposits for possible mining."⁸

Thus, if mining were to be permitted now, future expansion requests would be likely under such a precedent. Note that in the 2005 application, these same owners were clear that what was then a ~108 acre site was an "initial site."⁹

Granting this mining application would make surrounding land much less attractive for less intensive and more sustainable uses. Moreover, the existence of this mine would make it easier to extend mining operations to the surrounding acres, since a key consideration in the Code is whether there is nearby mining. These factors almost guarantee that this 50 acre site would eventually be expanded to include strip mining on a much greater scale, likely similar to the initially proposed two-mile long swath on the Mesa top. The County cannot allow this to happen.

The landowners purchased the property with the current agricultural zoning and they have no protected rights to enforce a rezoning for extraction.

National and Regional Significance

SGMP Recognizes the Need to Protect La Bajada

The Sustainable Growth Management Plan envisions less intensive use for La Bajada and the surrounding area. Under planned SGMP the mesa top would be even more protected (160 acre

agricultural/ranch) than it is today (40 acre residential/agricultural.) Clearly, the County itself recognizes the importance of minimizing developmental impacts to this important gateway. The County is under no obligation to now rezone this land for mining and permit the applicants to subvert the County's own Sustainable Growth Management Plans.

Nationally Significant with Extensive Natural, Cultural, and Recreational Resources

The application describes the surrounding land as "vacant." Yet, as cited earlier under the heading *Location Standards for Article XI Have Not Been Met, 1.2.2*, the area has profound cultural and historical significance, as further shown by these resources:

- New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance, Most Endangered Places in New Mexico, 2003 listing of La Bajada Mesa and Escarpment
<http://www.nmheritage.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/2003-Most-Endangered.pdf>
- La Bajada 'Official Scenic Historical Marker'
<http://www.raintreecounty.com/LaBmarkr.html>

Gateway to the City of Santa Fe and to the Galisteo Basin Parklands

The Mesa is located at the Southern "gateway" to Santa Fe and the Galisteo Basin State parklands. "The Galisteo Basin is a nationally significant area with extensive natural, cultural, and recreational resources." ¹⁰

The "Potential Gateway Corridor" designated by the SGMP¹¹ completely encompasses the proposed mine site and all of the Mesa that is currently for sale by the applicant. Recognition of this area as a Gateway rather than a mine zone is testimony to the wisdom of Santa Fe County, its Staff, elected officials and residents.

SGMP Conceptual Major Wildlife Corridors Nearby

The SGMP displays Conceptual Major Wildlife Corridors showing the area of Applicant's site surrounded by such corridors. Wildlife Network lists the Upper Rio Grande Watershed (including La Bajada) as one of the twenty priority wildlife corridors in all of North America.(Appendix Figure 1, p. 25) Other resources confirm the importance of this specific part of the mesa to be crucial to local ecology and wildlife, as shown in Appendix Figure 3 (p.27) and Figure 4 (p.28.)

Sustainable Cultural Resource

La Bajada Mesa is a NM landscape that sustains artists, photographers, film makers and travelers. It is a frequent subject for artists and photographers alike. Movies (including "No Country for Old Men") are filmed here. It embodies the spirit of the place.

"La Bajada Hill . . . is still one of those approaches, those arrivals, that seems mythical, impossibly grand . . . a place that could change not only one's external life but also one's inner, spiritual life . . . 'You will never be the same again.' "

-- Henry Shukman, *The New York Times*, February 7, 2010.

Environmental and Social Welfare Considerations

Air Quality Issues

Below is a partial list of the potential cumulative impacts from the development of a typical sand and gravel mine.

- Dust and diesel fumes generated on the haul road to and from the mine.
- Fugitive dust blowing from the uncovered or partially covered dump trucks.
- Fugitive dust from poorly monitored crushers and out-of-compliance operations.
- Increased traffic (highways) . . . with a concomitant increase in air pollution from more vehicles (highways and rural roads) and more disturbed land (building construction).
- Increased air pollution from some sand and gravel mines *after* they are abandoned and until natural re-vegetation stabilizes the surface soil.

“Each of the impacts listed above produces real-world effects that are difficult to measure.”

--Steve Blodgett, M.S.

The Cerrillos Hills State Park and villages of Cerrillos and Madrid are downwind from this proposed site with La Cienega just to the north. As has been previously stated, OSHA recognizes airborne silica as a carcinogen, capable of causing disability or death. The County has an obligation to do everything in its power to protect the health and welfare of its residents. One way to do that is to deny this application for another unneeded mine that will only exacerbate the air quality issues and endanger residents.

Traffic Impacts

Increased heavy truck traffic, both for crushed rock and for water haulage, will increase wear on County, State, and Federal roads in the area. This will result in costs for upgrading and maintenance of these roads. Under the SGMP, any developer would be required to pay impact fees to cover these costs before receiving any permit. The current applicant would "externalize" these costs, meaning that they would be born, involuntarily, by county taxpayers.

Similarly, increased heavy truck traffic increases the risks of accidents, and specifically of passenger vehicle collisions with heavy trucks, which are usually deadly. This means that the mining permit should (as under SGMP) be conditional on increased funding and training for emergency responders. In Santa Fe, most such responders are volunteer fire departments, and may not have the training or equipment to respond in a car/truck accident. Once again, the applicant, if permitted to mine, will successfully externalize these costs onto the taxpayers.

Light Pollution

The application proposes to mitigate night lighting impacts on County Road 57 by angling the lights southward. However, this exacerbates the problem for those residents south of the mine site, and potentially for travelers on I-25. The inclusion of night lighting suggests that the applicants intend to operate at night, raising an entirely new level of potential impacts that are ignored in the application, as well as further underestimating the water use calculations above.

Further, the County's dark sky ordinance allow exceptions for safety and security – exceptions which the applicants clearly plan to use, stating that "lighting will be used at the tool and administrative trailers to provide the necessary security to avoid vandalism at the site."

Visibility and Viewshed

What the application calls "vacant" land is a profound panoramic open space with the proposed mine zone visible from portions of I-25, the I-25 frontage road, Waldo Canyon Rd (CR 57), the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway, and many roads and homes to the south.

The potential visibility impacts would be apparent upon what has been long recognized as the gateway area to Santa Fe. This area is also the scenic gateway to the Galisteo basin via Waldo Canyon Road that leads to the Cerrillos Hills State Park lands and on to the Ortiz Mountain Educational Preserve.

La Bajada Mesa is the major feature at the Western entrance to the Galisteo Basin. The vistas of the Mesa from the Park, especially from Buffalo Mountain and other areas in and above the Park, sight directly upon the Mesa.

Steve Blodgett, M.S., a mining engineer and author of "Environmental Impacts of Aggregate and Stone Mining in New Mexico" writes about the Cumulative and Associated Environmental Impacts of such mining as proposed in this mesa vicinity.¹²

After having walked over the Mesa, in a letter to Ross Lockridge (Aug. 15, 2005), Mr. Blodgett wrote, "Even though the crusher will be out of sight in the bottom of one of the cells once the mine is developed, there will always be a dust plume emerging from this property, especially during the spring winds." Adding, "Again, you won't have to see the actual mine to know it's there because there will be a dust plume marking its location."

In addition to the ever-enlarging pit itself, would be all the structures mentioned on p. 10 of the application, including several trailers, screening and several pieces of crushing equipment with belt conveyor systems, water and fuel tanks, several dozers, pole-mounted lights, porta toilets, storage piles and the trucks.

The application says that the "crusher will be located in the excavated cell with limited visibility from public roadways, once the cell is excavated." But then there is the visible pit itself and the stockpiles. What do they plan to locate in front of the stockpiles in order to minimize visibility from I-25 and the frontage road, Waldo Canyon Road, and the rural population to the south?

In their 2008 application the crusher was to be located "behind the finished stockpiled materials, in order to minimize visibility...." Stock piles by nature are in a state of flux as they are first added to and then loaded onto trucks and transported from the site. Both the pit and the stockpiles would be themselves visible components from the roadways and both would be visible dust sources in the panorama.

There is an unconvincing attempt to spin the visibility issue by emphasizing the "distance from I-25 and CR57" as *minimizing* the visibility from the roadways, but the distances from these roads

are modest, and sight lines are generally unimpeded. Visibility always implies a viewing angle, not merely distance, and depends on the specific topography between the viewpoint and the mine or equipment. There are standard methods, developed by the US Park Service and others and widely used both as manual and electronic processes. It is clear that this standard type of analysis was ignored in preparing the application.

However, outside analysis shows that the surface of the mine site itself to be clearly visible from sections of the historic Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. (Appendix Figure 2, p.26.)

Considering the importance of this area to New Mexicans, both as entrance to Santa Fe and via CR57 to the Park lands, the views from all directions should have been assessed along with the visual impacts of dust and the impacts to the night sky.

Issues of Trust

False Claims in Previous Applications

We wish to point out a matter of questionable trust. There are several claims, in both the prior and current applications, that are so questionable and so unsupported that they call into question the trustworthiness of the applicants. If a mining company is not trustworthy how can they be trusted, for example, to invest to keep the dust under control knowing that such requirements are difficult to enforce?

The application claims that the basaltic material is needed because the "quality of the aggregate pits in the Santa Fe area generally does not meet the requirements for these types [roads, bridges, etc.] of construction projects." Yet no evidence has been submitted to support that claim.

In 2008, Rockology similarly proclaimed a need "to provide for railroad ballast...for Railrunner...and for subsequent removal of similar material." However, in March of 2008 we learned from "County spokesman Stephen Ulibarri . . . that county staff has no evidence that the materials mined on the mesa would be used in the train project."¹³ Later it was revealed that the materials claimed by Rockology as needed for the Railrunner had already been acquired by NMDOT from another source, at Pena Blanca. Their claim of need for their material was purely wishful thinking. The claim of "need" for basaltic material implies that it is *absent* in the Santa Fe area. But the applicant omits mention of the on-going basalt operation at Caja del Rio in this instance, only to later reference Delhur when touting the experience of their blasting contractor.

The substantial source of basalt at Caja del Rio clearly demonstrates that a need for additional extraction materials, local or otherwise, is not established. Further, their omission of this significant competitor must call into question the completeness of any other assertions made by the applicants.

The omission of Delhur Industries is reminiscent of a similar omission in their 2008 application. Espanola Mercantile, a major competitor, was curiously omitted from both the "Vicinity Map" and from the Cover Sheet images in that application. Rockology's representation of Espanola

Mercantile on the Cover Sheet, was mis-located and displayed as a relatively small square on flat land away from the Cerrillos Hills where EM's Waldo Mine is located.

"A railroad siding was constructed by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad line for the purpose of loading aggregate ballast material to be used for bedding of the railway."

—Buena Vista, --p. 7

Applicants note the location of one such RR siding to the west. They don't note the siding along CR57 at Waldo near to Cerrillos. We know from a past JR Hale Contracting 2002 proposal to strip a ~2 mile stretch of the mesa, that a railroad siding was being considered to play a role in exporting materials out of the county.

In all these cases, the applicant's documentation is misleading. What other information is missing, and what other false assertions are masquerading as fact?

Missing, Misleading and Erroneous Information in Current Application

Crushers

"The air quality plan will comply with the requirements for the permit issued by the New Mexico Environment Dept. for the crusher that was previously located at another location." —Buena Vista

However, even if the crushers (& piles) were eventually placed in the pit, the open mesa affords no protection on the site from scouring winds. These winds would be drawn through the un-reclaimed pit carrying fugitive dust with them.

In addition, the permit noted is for one crusher, whereas the project lists several others: 2 primary jaw crushers with feeders, a vertical shaft impact crusher, and 2 cone crushers.

Hauling Considerations

Applicants claim the proposed mine would shorten the distances in hauling as compared with currently available sources of aggregate. Their rationale identifies a limited number of quarries in operation with simple unsubstantiated claims of aggregate scarcity. Yet their proposal would demand considerable water truck traffic even if the amount of water needed is underestimated.

If saving haul truck distances is to be a consideration in the siting of this proposed mining zone, surely the *water* haul truck miles, daily, yearly, must be added in to any analysis. Aggregate vs. water hauling distances must be honestly counterbalanced in this comparative location assessment.

Operation Plan / Time Frame

Another unsubstantiated claim is the "25 years" time frame of the mining operation on this 50 acre tract. In 2008 Rockology had planned to strip the same 50 acres of basalt in 12 years, not 25. For a further note of comparison, in 2002 J.R. Hale proposed to strip 500 acres in 50 years, equating to 50 acres in 10 years. In Buildology's application of 2005, the years thought required for stripping 108 acres, was estimated as "15 - 20".

Once again, the applicant's math does not seem to add up. Under Economic Benefits, sales are estimated at 250,000 tons. Under Volumetric Calculations, we learn that 886,000 cubic yards of finished material will be produced for sale over 25 years of operation. According to the Caja del Rio quarry manager, a cubic yard of basalt gravel weighs 1.4 tons.

$886,000 \text{ cubic yards} \times 1.4 \text{ tons per cubic yard} = 1,240,200 \text{ tons of material available for sale.}$

$1,240,200 \text{ tons of material for sale} \div 250,000 \text{ tons sold per year} = 4.96 \text{ years of available material, NOT 25 years.}$

Further, the application states that "a total of 3.36 million cubic yards of materials will be excavated over a 25 year time frame." Yet the "estimated amount of material to be processed through the crusher is 1.26 million cubic yards." They do not account for more than 2 million cubic yards of excavated material which, if piled with 45 degree slopes, would be a whopping 132 ft high mountain of rock somewhere.

Lastly, they estimate that 1.26 million cubic yards of material will be processed through the crusher, yet only 886,000 cubic yards of material will be available for sale. Since processed basalt such as gravel includes air pockets, it is less dense than the original material and should result in more volume (cubic yards), not less. But if 1.26 million cubic yards goes in and only 886,000 cubic yards comes out, that means 374,000 cubic yards of material are unaccounted for. The most reasonable (if environmentally disturbing) assumption is that this is the amount of dust produced by the operation – dust for which insufficient water has been budgeted to control, and dust that exposes the citizens of Santa Fe County to the carcinogenic hazards documented by OSHA.

What we can deduce is that with modern mining techniques, the acreage has the potential to expand very quickly and the applicant is downplaying a foot-in-the-door approach. Experience would suggest that if a mine of any size were permitted, future expansions could be expected along with applications for extended mining zones, along with the precedent-setting use of County water on the adjacent land

Misleading Traffic Impacts

Adding additional industrial traffic onto Waldo Canyon Rd (CR57) both gravel haul trucks and water tankers along with that of the Waldo Quarry is not in the public welfare and would further impact the intersection and merging lanes onto I-25. Such traffic might also use Waldo Canyon road through Cerrillos to access NM 14 if they find markets in Eastern NM. Impact on both the village and NM 14, which is a listed Scenic Byway, would be extremely negative.

Both the traffic impacts and number of jobs are questionable. The application claims that 12 trucks will haul materials from the site on a daily basis. It is also claimed that 7 persons will be working full time at the site.

But that is hard to reconcile when, in 2008 at a public meeting held in La Cienega, applicants estimated that the truck *loads* per day were thought to be up to "100 to 150 a day." With 12 trucks, this would require each truck to make 12.5 loaded trips per day. In an 8-hour day, this

would mean each round-trip could take no more than about 38 minutes. At 40 mph (.66 miles per minute) this would limit the radius of the trip to about 12 miles.

Further, there is no mention of the number of tanker truck trips that hauled water would add to the site traffic.

Conclusion

We ask that Staff, the CDRC and the Board, recognize that a mine site in this historic area, known to thousands of county, state, national and international travelers—at the southern gateway to the city of Santa Fe and likewise as envisioned into the Galisteo Basin & Cerrillos park lands—is contrary to Article XI, Section 1.2 and would be an irreversible mistake.

For the many reasons above, along with the illustrious cultural histories of this area to New Mexicans, please vote to deny this application. It cannot be modified into compliance, and is not in the public interest.

Sincerely,

Ross Lockridge, Ann Murray, Kim Sorvig, Don Van Doren and Diane Senior for the RCA

Cc.

Encl.

Appendix:

2005 County Staff Memorandum Recommending Denial of Mining Application, p.1

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 18, 2005
TO: County Development Review Committee
FROM: Dominic T. Gonzalez, Development Review Specialist II
Dominic Gonzalez
VIA: Vicki Lucero, Zoning Review Division Director
Charlie D. Gonzalez, Permits and Inspections Division Director
Dolores L. Vigil, Land Use Administrator

FILE REF: CDRC CASE # MIS 05-5230 Buena Vista Mine

ISSUE:

Buildology, Inc. (Steve Hooper), applicant, James Siebert, agent, requests approval for the creation of a mine zone to allow the extraction of aggregates for construction materials, to be used in ready-mix concrete, asphalt, landscaping, and base course, on 108.5 acres, as set forth in Article XI of the Land Development Code.

The property is located east of Interstate 25 & south of Waldo Canyon, North of the Village of Centillos, within Section 22,26,27, Township 15North, Range 7 East, (Commission District 3).

SUMMARY:

The applicant is requesting approval to create a mine zone for the extraction of aggregates for construction materials on 108.5-acres within a 1,060-acre tract.

Acres?

The applicant estimates that it will take approximately 15 to 20 years to complete the mining process, which will be conducted in three phases. The mining for each cell phase will occur over an approximate five-year period, with each cell phase to be reclaimed and revegetated after the mining of the cell phase is complete.

The applicant states that during the warmer months (April to September) the site will operate from 7:00am to 5:00pm on weekdays, with Saturday operations to be from 7:00am to 12:00pm.

Are there permits?

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From October till March the hours of operation will be from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with no weekend hours anticipated.

The applicant states that no permanent structures will be constructed on-site, and that the project will utilize temporary and portable structures, to include a tool trailer, administrative trailer, screening and crushing equipment and associated belt conveyor systems, water and fuel storage tanks, and a weigh scale. The structures will be relocated at next phase once the previous phase has been completed.

Phasing

The proposed mine is designed for a 15-year life expectancy to be completed in three 34.5 to 36.9-acre phases.

Phase I of the mining operations will start on a 34.5-acre cell located at the west of the property. Phase II, a 36.9-acre cell, will be located between Phase I and III, and Phase III will be on a 36.8-acre cell located at the east of the property.

The processing and handling of materials for each of the three phases will be done in three sub-phases; Pit Operations, Plant Processing and Product Loading and Distribution.

Pit Operations

Pit operations will consist of the preparation of each cell with the removal of natural soils (overburden). A track dozer will be used to expose the basaltic rock formations. The overburden will be stock piled outside the excavation cell and will be used as topsoil in the reclamation of the site following the completion of each phase. Rock drilling will follow the removal of the overburden, drilled in accordance with the written and approved blasting plan. The applicant states that blast operations will be conducted in compliance with Santa Fe County and Federal ATF regulations, and blasting will only take place during daytime hours. Blasting materials will not be stored on site.

Plant Processing

A front-end loader will feed the blasted material into a feed hopper, followed by crushing, screening, and stockpiling of finished material. The applicant states that the crusher will be located in the excavated cell, with limited visibility of public view. Unusable material will be returned to the excavation area for use in reclamation.

Product Loading and Distribution

A front-end loader will place the finished aggregate products into the haul trucks. All trucks will be required to be compliant with New Mexico Department of Transportation and New Mexico Public Regulation Commission requirements. The applicant states that all loads will be weighed to ensure that the trucks are within legal weight limits, and properly covered to secure the load.

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Existing Development

The property is currently vacant. The co-applicants own the vacant properties surrounding the proposed project.

Public Concerns/Issues

The Land Use Department has received numerous telephone calls in opposition of the proposed project. No letters of support have been received. (Exhibit "T").

Access

Access to the property is from County Road 57 (Waldo Canyon Road). The site will have a single driveway, located to the south of the property.

The proposed haul route for aggregate hauling from the site will be northward for approximately one mile along County Road 57 to the I-25/Waldo Interchange. County Road 57 is currently paved from the I-25/Waldo Interchange to the driveway turn off this project will be utilizing.

The Public Works Department has reviewed this application and recommends that a 40' paved apron at the intersection of the proposed driveway and CR57 be constructed. (Refer to "Exhibit-B" reviewing agency responses)

Water

The applicant proposes to utilize non-potable water from the City of Santa Fe Water Treatment Plant for dust control purposes. Water will be hauled by truck from City of Santa Fe Sewer Treatment Plant located at Airport Road, to the site. The applicant states that the water will be stored in a 10,000-gallon tank located onsite. The applicant also states that truck will shuttle water during off peak hours. Drinking water will be purchased in twenty-gallon containers for daily use. (Exhibit "J").

The County Hydrologist has reviewed this application, and commented that even though the applicant states that the proposed project is to utilize City effluent, no letter of commitment from the City was included with the submittal. The County Hydrologist states that for the applicant to meet the water availability requirements, the applicant must provide documentation from the City committing to supplying water to this project for the time period the expect to run this operation. Also the water budget did not reflect whether any water would be needed in the utilization of the crusher and conveyor systems.

The Office of the State Engineer deferred its review to the County.

Liquid and Solid Waste

The applicant states that portable toilets will be brought onsite for the sanitary purposes of the employees, and a specified maintenance period will be included in the contract for service of the portable toilets.

The Environment Department is currently reviewing this application.

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Common trash, generated by employees, will be collected in a solid waste container and periodically hauled off site by the applicant for disposal at the Solidology Offices located in Albuquerque. The solid waste container shall be screened on all four sides and top.

Terminology

The proposed project is relatively flat, with no slopes exceeding 20%. Water retention ponds are being proposed capture storm water run-off from the site, and will be located through each phase of the project.

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, as required by the E.P.A will be prepared prior to the issuance of a building permit.

Air Quality

A permit from the New Mexico Environmental Department has been issued for a crusher that was previously located at another location. An updated permit or a Relocation permit from NMED will be required prior to the issuance of a Development Permit.

Fire Protection

The applicant states that the 10,000-gallon water tank will be available on site as fire water supply. All mobile equipment and scale house/office will be equipped with fire extinguishers.

The Fire Marshall is currently reviewing this project.

Archeological

The applicant states that prior to the issuance of a Development Permit that an archeological report will be submitted for the proposed project.

This application has been reviewed by the State Office of Cultural Affairs Historic Preservation Division (Exhibit "B"). The Historic Preservation Office concurs that an archeological survey is needed.

The New Mexico Heritage and Preservation Alliance recently recognized Buffalo Mountain as one of New Mexico's most endangered places.

Article VI, Section 3.3 (Location of Historic or Cultural Sites, Landmarks and Archaeological Districts) lists the Cerrillos Mining District as a Historic or Cultural Site or Landmark (Exhibit "F").

Location/Performance Standards

Article XI of the Land Development Code requires that locational criteria be met for the creation of a mine zone (Exhibit E). Article XI, Section 1.2 requires the demonstration of the existence of resources, that the mining use be compatible with other uses in the area and that the area is suited for mining uses in comparison with other areas of the County.

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The applicant addresses Significant Mineral Resource, Mining Use Compatibility, History of Significant Mining Activity in the Area, and Area Suitable for Mining Uses. (Refer to applicant's Report "Exhibit C"). The applicant states that a soils investigation of the site was conducted using an excavator to determine the type and depth of the material.

Basaltic material was found at approximately 20 feet, and the basaltic material was relatively constant for the entire depth.

During the construction of I-25, a mine construction site was located directly east of the subject proposed development, which was used for the purpose of loading aggregate ballast materials to be used for the making of base course and asphalt aggregates for the interstate highway construction. A gypsum mining plant was located on Santo Domingo Pueblo property, located to the south and west of the proposed development. The aggregate ballast material was used for the bedding of the railway located to the south and west of this proposed project.

Article XI, Section 1.6 (Performance Standards) of the Land Development states "no mining use activity will be permitted if it is determined that the use will have a significant adverse affect on health, safety, morals or general welfare of the County or its residents."

Reclamation

The applicant states that reclamation will take place upon the completion of each phase of the operation. The sides of the excavation will be cut at a ratio not to exceed 3:1, which will allow for the revegetation of the disturbed sites. The stock piled overburden will be returned to the site and will be used as the base for reseeded. The applicant also states that where the terrain contours are susceptible to erosion, furrows will be created to prevent soil erosion.

REQUIRED ACTION:

The CDRC should review the attached material and consider the recommendation of staff; take action to approve, deny, approve with conditions or table for further analysis of this request.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff's position is that this location is not compatible or suitable for mining. The cultural significance of the Los Cerrillos Mining District, and without a Archeological Report to address the potential of any significant archaeological sites, and Buffalo Mountain recently being recognized as one of New Mexico's most endangered places demonstrates the cultural significance and importance of protecting this area.

Handwritten notes:
We are the Resource Dept
Please Note That Buffalo Mountain

Staff is concerned about the potential impacts of this project on adjacent lands in this area. There is a Public Open Space Park and residential developments in close proximity to the proposed mine. Also, Staff has major concerns regarding the applicant's water supply plan. Staff recommends denial on the application based on the reasons stated above.

If the application is approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

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1. The applicant shall return to the CDRC and BCC for approvals of future phases, if applicable. The proposed phasing plan for Phases I, II, and III shall be complied with.
2. All water for dust control and irrigation shall be treated effluent unless the applicant amends this application for the use of a well and provides proof of water right and availability; any such amendments shall be reviewed by the CDRC and BCC.
3. If at any time sufficient treated effluent is not available and an amendment for the use of a well has not been approved, all mining shall cease. If mining operations cease for a period of 6 months, the applicant shall reclaim the disturbed areas or the County file a demand on the letter of credit.
4. Compliance with applicable review comments from the following:
 - a) State Engineer
 - b) State Environment Department
 - c) Soil & Water District
 - d) State Department of Transportation
 - e) County Hydrologist
 - f) Zoning Review Director
 - g) County Fire Marshal
 - h) County Public Works
 - i) State Historic Preservation Office
 - j) County Technical Review Division
5. The applicant shall submit for an updated Air Quality permit, and shall be in compliance with the condition of the Air Quality Permit, Relocation Permit and siting permit.
6. The applicant shall submit a cost estimate and financial surety for completion of required improvements as approved by staff.
7. Compliance with minimum standards for outside lighting, and submit cut sheet prior to the issuance of a Development Permit. All outside lighting shall be shielded.
8. The applicant shall address all staff redlines comments, original redlines shall be returned.
9. All trucks shall have tarps completely covering and securing their loads as they leave the loading area.
10. The Final Plan will be recorded with the County Clerk's Office.

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11. The applicant shall submit a financial guarantee for all regarding, revegetation and cost of treated effluent prior to mining of each phase. The financial guarantee will be held until successful revegetation has been accepted by staff, for a minimum of one year, after reseedling.
12. Development Permits for mining and reclamation will be required for each phase. A final closure inspection will be required by the Permits and Inspections Director, upon completion of reclamation of each phase.
13. Each phasing area shall be defined by a licensed Land Surveyor, highly visible (PVC pipe) markers will be set to define the permitted areas. All future mining and operations shall be confined to the working areas permitted in this application.
14. Buildology/ Buena Vista shall grant enforcement/inspection access to the County throughout the duration of this operation.
15. A pre-construction conference shall be held with County Staff prior to any field activity and prior to issuance of a development permit.
16. Buildology/ Buena Vista will keep the access road and mine operations area watered to control dust as needed.

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit "A" - Applicant's Letter of Request
Exhibit "B" - Reviewing Agencies Responses
Exhibit "C" - Applicant's Report
Exhibit "D" - Applicant's Plans
Exhibit "E" - Article XI of the Land Development Code
Exhibit "F" - Article VI, Section 3.3 of the Land Development Code
Exhibit "G" - Article VII, Section 3.4.1.1 and Section 3.4.1.2 of the Code
Exhibit "I" - Public Concerns/Issues
Exhibit "J" - Vicinity Map

Figure 1: Wildlands Network map of Priority Wildlife Corridors

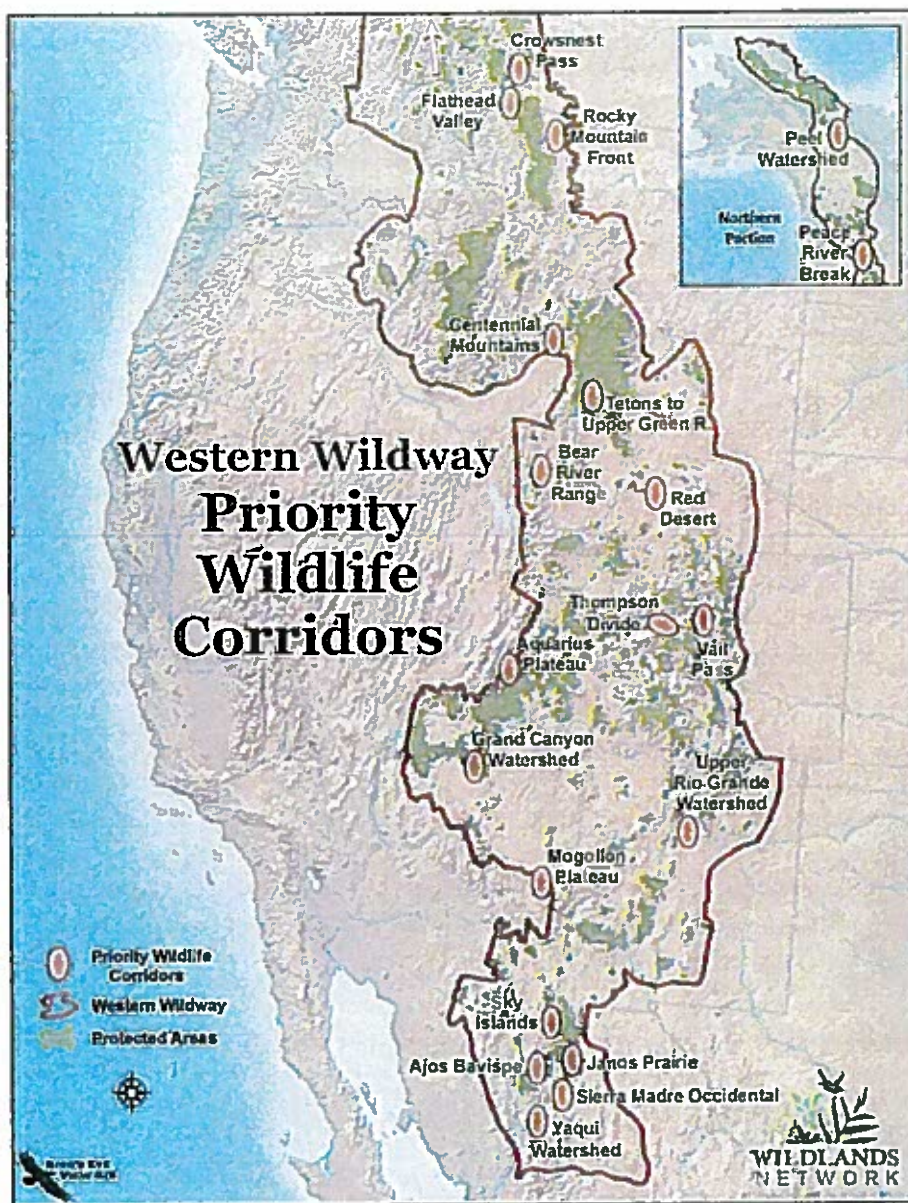


Figure 2: Viewshed Analysis from the Juana Lopez section of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro
Using a digital elevation model generated from the National Elevation Dataset and a vertical offset of 1.5 meters to represent a hiker a bit over five feet tall

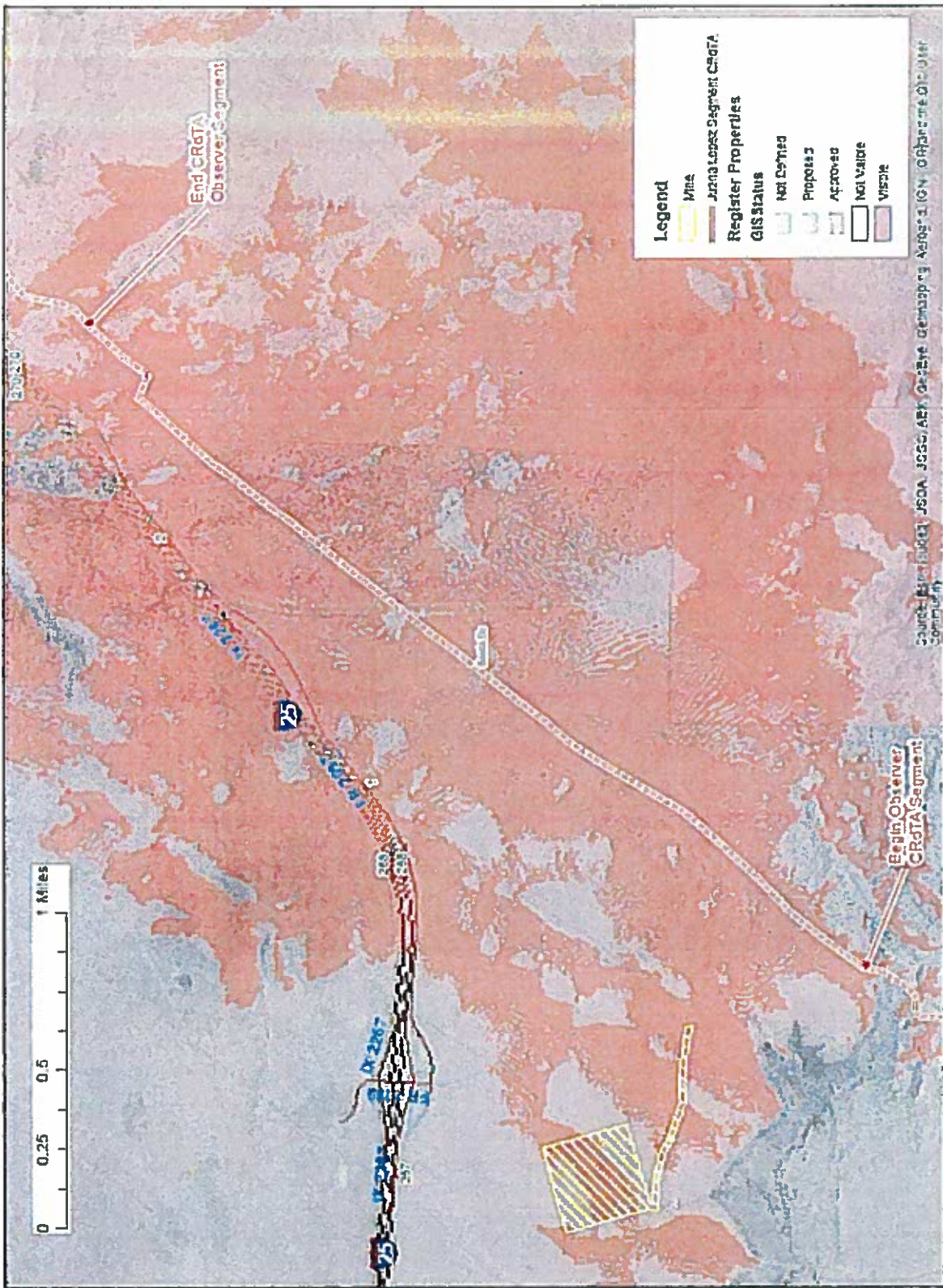
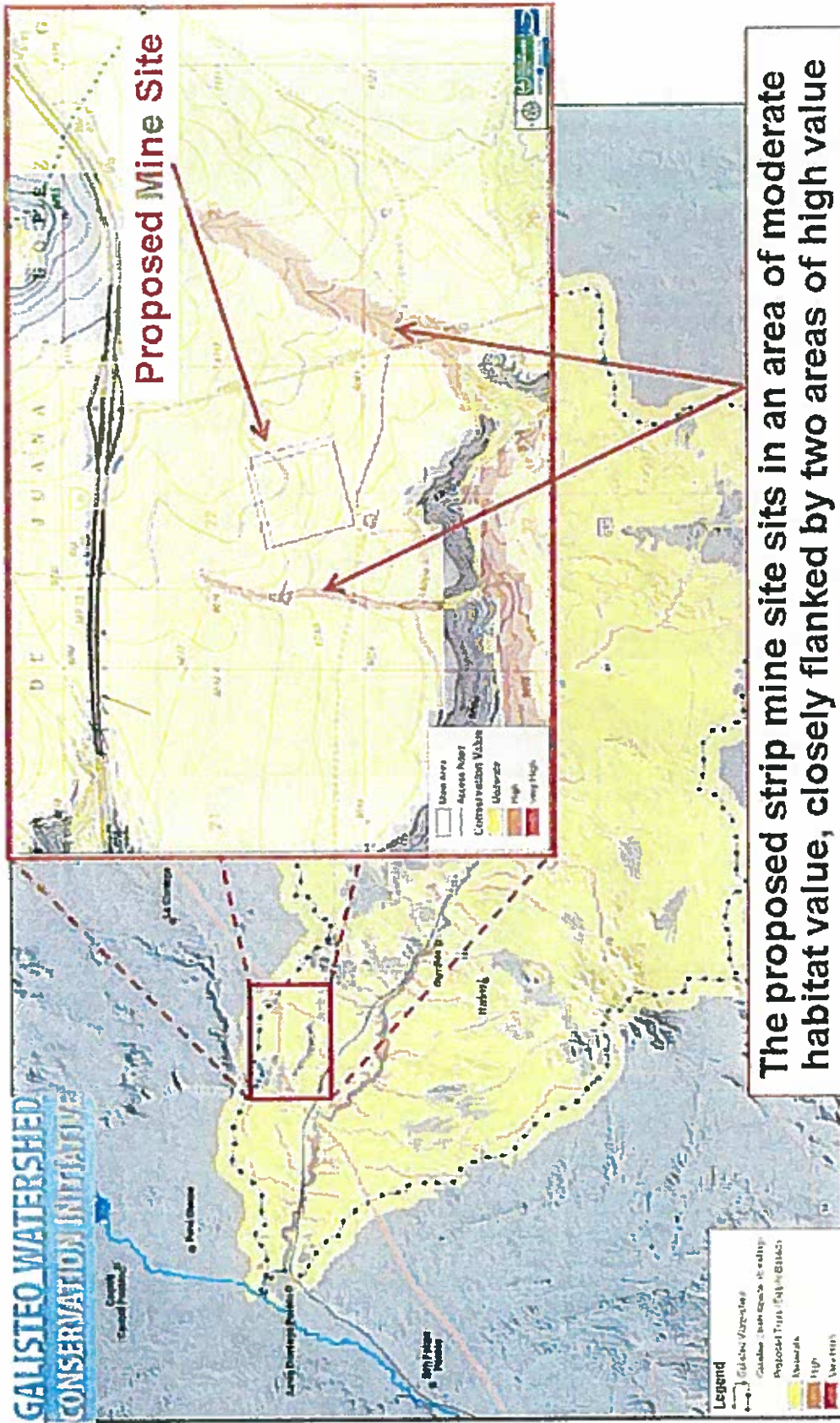
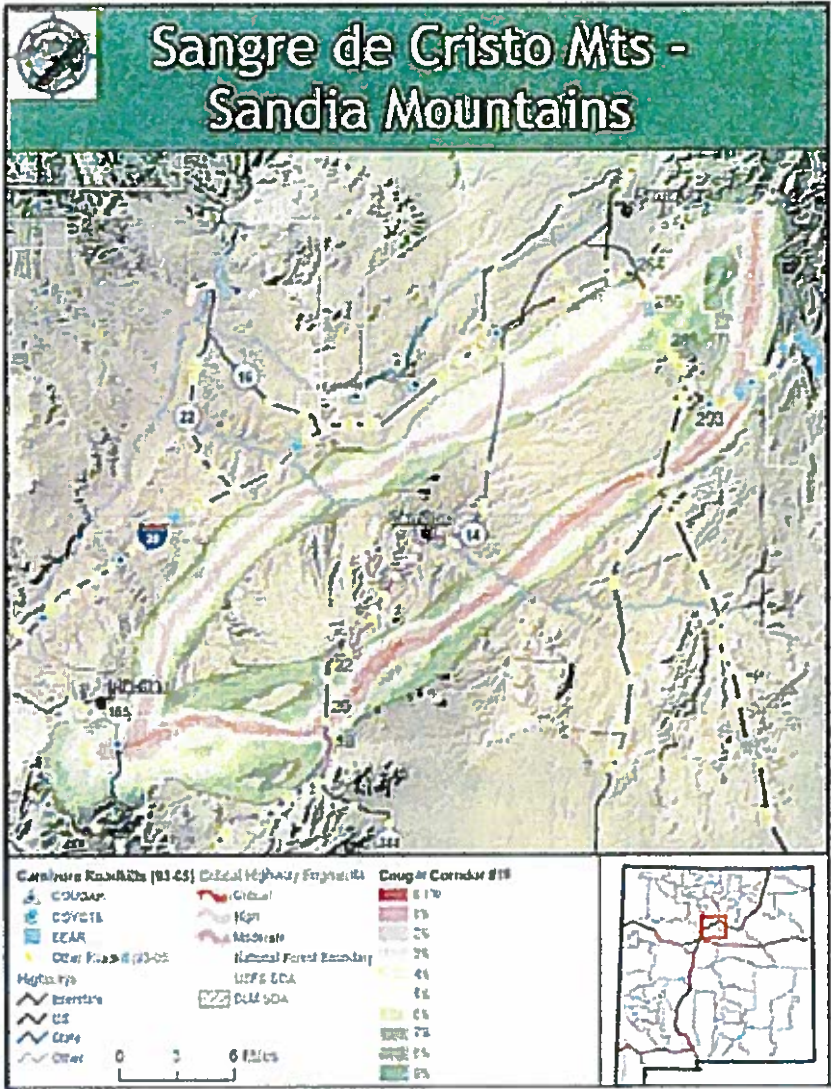


Figure 3: Habitat Value of the Proposed Mine Site Area



The proposed strip mine site sits in an area of moderate habitat value, closely flanked by two areas of high value

Figure 4: Potential Cougar Corridor Map (Share with Wildlife Final Report)



Citations

¹ <http://www.edumine.com/xtoolkit/tables/sgtables.htm>

² <http://www.edumine.com/xtoolkit/tables/sgtables.htm>

³ See <http://nmindustrypartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/NMTD-Quarterly-Report-January-2012.pdf>

⁴ 2010 Santa Fe County Growth Management Plan, p. 51

⁵ Thompson & Sorvig, Sustainable Landscape Construction, 2nd Edition, 2007, Island Press; p 88.

⁶ Reported 2.28/2012, Associated Press

⁷ <http://www.theguardian.com/travel/2014/jan/23/new-mexico-top-10-national-parks>

⁸ http://www.cbre.us/services/industrial/AssetLibrary/LandServices_NM_LaBajada.pdf

⁹ Buildology, 2005, 3.1 Time Frame, CDRC CASE # MIS 05-5230 Buena Vista Mineral Extraction, p. 4

¹⁰ State Parks Feasibility Study 2006 "Potential Gateway Corridor" in the SGMP.

¹¹ SGMP Map 5-2 "Scenic and Historic Routes", p. 99

¹² See <http://www.raintreecounty.com/Blodgett.html#anchor923126>.

¹³ New Mexican, P. Haywood, 3/23/08

March 11, 2014

FROM: Kim Sorvig MLA, DHonKew

Research Assoc. Professor & George Pearl Fellow, UNM School of Architecture & Planning

Contributing Editor, Landscape Architecture Magazine, Wash. DC

NM and PA licensed Landscape Architect (inactive status)

103c Camino los Abuelos, Santa Fe NM 87508

TO: Jose Larrañaga, Case Manager

Santa Fe County

POB 276

Santa Fe, NM 87504

via e-mail

Re: ODR CASE # Z/ DM XT 13-5360

OPPOSED to Buena Vista and Rockology LLC Application to mine La Bajada Mesa

The referenced proposal is very nearly identical to two previous instances (2005 and 2008), from the same applicants under different corporate identities. I reviewed at least one of these previous versions in detail. In my professional judgment (as a licensed NM landscape architect and UNM researcher and teacher in this subject area) I found that those applications failed to address critical issues of public health and safety including dust control, water supply, stormwater management, and revegetation. In addition, those applications ignored the historic, cultural, and ecological value of the site, values recognized in County long-term planning over the past decade or more. Furthermore, those earlier applications gave misleading emphasis to questionable economic analysis. The County staff and citizens raised enough objections on both previous occasions that the applications were rejected or withdrawn.

The current application is effectively identical in its defects to the 2005 and 2008 versions. It differs primarily in reducing the footprint of the mine, while also making it abundantly clear that this would be just Phase One of an expanding operation that would ultimately be exactly as large as the first application, which requested permission to strip over two miles of the mesa. It also differs in using the county water utility as a means of avoiding the rightful jurisdiction of the State Engineer over issues of water rights, especially at this scale.

Details of these inadequacies and concerns with the current and previous proposals are documented in the letter submitted by the Rural Conservation Alliance, signed by Ross Lockridge on behalf of the RCA. I am a signatory to that document. It is in my professional opinion accurate and even understated in pointing out the serious problems with Buena Vista/ Rockology and their application.

As a county resident and as a land-use and sustainable construction expert, I strongly urge the County Development Review Committee (ODRC) to deny this proposal on March 20th because:

1) La Bajada Mesa is a cultural and historic treasure -- often overlooked as we sail up I-25 or the Railrunner. It has sacred sites connected to the long history of the Pueblos. It was the last challenge on the Camino Real from Mexico City. On its face, a segment of old Route 66 can still be hiked. For Santa Fe residents, it is the threshold that tells us we're home. It is worth far more to us as a landmark than as a road-base.

2) The proposal asserts a "need" for a new mine. Apparently based on dreams of a captive market during Railrunner construction, this need is entirely private, and mostly imaginary. Within Santa Fe County, we already have Caja del Rio Quarry producing these products, with decades of reserves.

The QdR Quarry uses effluent, not drinking water; its excavations will be reused by the landfill where it is located. Permitting a new mine would undercut the QdR operation, cancelling out economic benefits. Even proponents estimate only seven new jobs; good pay or preferential local hiring are not assured. Besides, demand for virgin gravel is decreasing; construction is slow, and recycling old roads by crushing them for aggregate is increasingly cost-effective.

3) La Bajada provides regional "environmental services." Its geology influences surface and subsurface water: the Santa Fe River and La Cienega springs support traditional agriculture, and La Bajada pushes groundwater into Rio Grande Basin aquifers, which supply water to over 50% of New Mexico's population. The Rio Grande valley, which La Bajada helps define, is one of the top twenty wildlife and migratory bird corridors in the US. And as you know if you've driven up from Albuquerque with the top down, La Bajada buffers local climate by about ten degrees – an increasingly important function.

4) Last but far from least, the County utility wants to sell drinking water, treated at public expense, to an operation that doesn't need potable water. Indefensible in itself, this is a terrible precedent. The County and City of Santa Fe share water-sources and treatment plants – the County's taxpayer-funded distribution lines are separate. Water sold by either utility comes out of the same pot. This proposal would deprive residents of City and County alike of a million gallons a year. That's water the mine would continue buying when the rest of us are under Drought Restrictions.

By permitting this inappropriate and unnecessary use of drinking water, saying no to other industries becomes much harder. Oil and gas drillers use several million gallons of water per well, and in Texas have hoarded potable water while livestock and crops died of thirst. In the desert Southwest, we cannot afford to set such a precedent.

In addition to these major areas of concern, the present application is rife with inaccuracies, unsupported assertions, and outright misstatements, all of which conveniently distort the facts in a way that would be favorable to the applicants. Not only are the facts which are addressed mis-represented, but there are a significant number of procedural requirements that have not been addressed at all. These are not minor technicalities, but critical matters such as dust control, accurate traffic impact and infrastructure costs that the applicant expects to foist onto County taxpayers, stormwater compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) statutes, and requirements under the same statute for revegetation. Far from being procedural oversights, these form a pattern of indifference to public health and safety issues, which are the basis for the County's mandate to enforce appropriate land-use. These inaccuracies and incomplete documentation or plans are, by themselves, more than enough reason that the application must be rejected.



Jose Larranaga

From: Darshan F Jessop <fjessop514@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 1:38 PM
To: Jose Larranaga; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Categories: Red Category

Please do not allow the proposed mine on La Bajada Mesa. New Mexico's limited water supply simply can't afford it.

Hauled water should not be considered adequate for long term mining operations. Santa Fe County should develop a policy that does not by default provide water to all Developments of Countywide Impact including oil and gas, mining, CAFO's etc. and not allow them to evade needed acquisition of commercial/industrial water rights. When a proposed mine is sited well (which the Buena Vista/Rockology mine isn't) it should have its own long-term water supply on site so as to eliminate the impacts of water hauling that includes traffic hazards as well as additional carbonization and infrastructure impacts from heavy trucks.

With this precedent set for mining the Mesa, if a mining company were to buy any or all of the remaining thousands of acres that are for sale on the international market, what then would become the county's obligations in 1) allowing further mining to the new corporate owners and, 2) supplying precious water resources for the extractions?

We simply can't afford this mine, and count on you to deny it.

Thank you,

Ms. D Jessop
PO Box 5504
Santa Fe NM 87502

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." - Dalai Lama

Jose Larranaga

From: Janiece Jonsin <jjonsin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 3:28 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC
Categories: Red Category

Dear Jose Larranaga, Case Manager,

I urge you to deny the proposed gravel strip mine on the top of La Bajada Mesa, south of Santa Fe near I-25. This is one of the most important historical, cultural, and scenic landmarks in New Mexico. In addition, the County has unconscionably agreed to sell scarce, potable water for mining operations and for dust control. Please stop the destruction of this treasure.

The acre feet of water suggested by Buena Vista (2.19) is woefully insufficient to accomplish the intended uses, which in their application does not include reclamation.

The amount of water needed is not clear. The application claims a total of 710,000 gallons a year or 2.19 acre feet, which we think would be woefully insufficient to accomplish the suppression of dust. Even this amount would generate thousands of heavy water haul truck passes a year and contribute to deterioration of our state and county roads, the repair of which the taxpayer would have to subsidize.

**Sincerely,
Janiece Jonsin
Santa Fe, NM
505-501-1779**

Jose Larranaga

From: WildEarth Guardians <action@wildearthguardians.org> on behalf of James Mulcare <xsecretsx@cableone.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 6:41 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Block Gravel Strip Mining on La Bajada Mesa Now
Categories: Red Category

Mar 12, 2014

Case Manager Jose Larrañaga
NM

Dear Case Manager Larrañaga,

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Please do NOT support a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa because this is part of the historic landmark that the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance (NMHPA) has recognized as one of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places."

In order to mine, they need water, largely to control the dust and air pollution that a strip mine would create.

The mining application proposes to use almost a million gallons of our increasingly scarce water per year for 25-years, while destroying an iconic landmark and diminishing the quality of life for all county residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Mulcare
1110 Benjamin St
Clarkston, WA 99403-2576

 Jose Larranaga

From: Elissa Heyman <elissaheyman@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 8:17 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Robin Gurule; Stephen C. Ross; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Miguel Chavez; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics
Subject: Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC,
Categories: Red Category

Dear Jose and others involved in the decision to stop the strip mining on La Bajada Mesa,

As visitors and locals alike come from the south to the entrance of Santa Fe, they could be met by industrial noise, pollution, dust, bright night lights, and other ugly developments if this mining goes through. It is the most short-sighted development project Santa Fe County has ever considered, just when Santa Fe is about to blossom as a forward-thinking, beauty-oriented, culturally rich Southwest city.

If this mining is allowed, the Santa Fe County residents' water supply will be endangered, so that a few people can make money by uglifying and degrading the landscape.

This travesty of nature and culture will be irreversible, it will be a ruination forever.

Do not allow this to take place! Stop this crazy plan, it will destroy so much for so little.

Sincerely,

Elissa Heyman

 Santa Fe, NM

Jose Larranaga

From: djofm@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 8:43 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: attention: this e-mail should be filed with all the protest letters for Mr. L.

Categories: Red Category

Subject: Protest: Mining application on La Bajada Mesa
Please, Jose Larranaga, AND OTHERS

I do NOT support mining in this location because:

ALL MINING SEVERELY DISTURBS ALL PARTS OF THE ECOSYSTEM, HURTS TOURISM
DOLLARS, LIGHTS & DYNAMITE BLASTS DISTURB THE RESIDENTS IN A WIDE AREA.....

--Mining in this site would result in the degradation of a NM cultural landscape that has been historically, culturally and environmentally significant to New Mexico for hundreds of years.

--Mining the Mesa would ruin the geological integrity--the grandeur of this oceanic Gateway along I-25 into Santa Fe & Waldo Canyon Road--the road that leads into the Galisteo basin park lands, a sustainable and growing economic resource. The Mesa needs to be preserved as open space for the welfare of the county, city, state, and thus the nation.

--There is no need for another basalt gravel mine in the County or another gravel mining operation off of I-25 as there are several existing gravel mines within reasonable proximity that can provide these materials.

--The current owners have no protected rights to demand a rezoning as they purchased the property with the current agricultural/residential zoning in place. The County has no obligation to enhance the economic (sold by the cubic yard) value of the property to the detriment of the County and State as a whole.

--Using County Water to enable the degradation of this historic NM cultural landscape would not benefit the public welfare.

--NO ONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CRUNCH UP OUR GLORIOUS BAJADA!

Diana Johnson, 2843 Highway 14, (40 years in new Madrid)
Madrid N.M. 87010, ON THE TURQUOISE TRAIL

ose Larranaga

From: Carl Dickens <cedickens2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 9:51 PM
To: Jose Larranaga
Cc: Penny Ellis-Green; Stephen C. Ross; Robin Gurule; Robert A. Anaya; Kathy S. Holian; Daniel Mayfield; Liz Stefanics; miguelmchavez@msn.com; Kathryn Ken Becker; Keir Careccio; Paul Murray; Mary Winter; JJ and Dolores; Robert-Patricia Romero; Judith Hands; Tom Mary Dixon
Subject: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates and Rockology Limited LLC
Attachments: LCVA Letter Rockology Mine 3-14.docx

Categories: Red Category

Dear Mr. Larranaga,

Please see the attached letter from the La Cienega Valley Association opposing the proposed Buena Vista Estates and Rockology LLC sand and gravel operation.

The LCVA has a number of concerns with an emphasis on water usage. In a time of drought and diminishing water sources this doesn't make sense.

Thank you,

Carl Dickens, President
La Cienega Valley Association

CC: LCVA Board

**La Cienega Valley Association
PO Box 23554
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
Preserving Our Rural Way of Life**

March 12, 2014

Jose Larranaga, Case Manager
Santa Fe County
102 Grant Avenue
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates and Rockology Limited LLC

Dear Mr. Larranaga,

The La Cienega Valley Association (LCVA) voices its opposition to the proposed Buena Vista Estates and Rockology Limited LLC sand and gravel mine on La Bajada Mesa. The LCVA opposes the proposed sand and gravel operation for the following reasons;

1. The certain and lasting damage to a historic landscape
2. The increase traffic of large trucks in and around La Cienega
3. Concerns regarding dust from mining operations
4. Water issues

The last reason is our community's greatest concern. In an area experiencing the sustained effects of a long-term drought and diminished water sources allowing a mining operation to use water "at their discretion" for this purpose from the County Utility Dispensing Facility is simply not right and does not reflect responsible water planning.

As noted the LCVA does not support the Buena Vista Estates and Rockology LLC's application for a sand and gravel operation and mine.

Thank you,

Carl Dickens, President
La Cienega Valley Association

Jose Larranaga

From: WildEarth Guardians <action@wildearthguardians.org> on behalf of Gábor Major <gabor.86@citromail.hu>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:28 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Block Gravel Strip Mining on La Bajada Mesa Now
Categories: Red Category

Mar 13, 2014

Case Manager Jose Larrañaga
NM

Dear Case Manager Larrañaga,

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Please do NOT support a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa because this is part of the historic landmark that the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance (NMHPA) has recognized as one of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places."

In order to mine, they need water, largely to control the dust and air pollution that a strip mine would create.

The mining application proposes to use almost a million gallons of our increasingly scarce water per year for 25-years, while destroying an iconic landmark and diminishing the quality of life for all county residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Mr. Gábor Major
Jozsef Attila 34/2
Los Angeles, CA 90211

Jose Larranaga

From: WildEarth Guardians <action@wildearthguardians.org> on behalf of Lilit Margaryan <lilith.margaryan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 4:59 AM
To: Jose Larranaga
Subject: Block Gravel Strip Mining on La Bajada Mesa Now
Categories: Red Category

Mar 13, 2014

Case Manager Jose Larrañaga
NM
,

Dear Case Manager Larrañaga,

Re: CDRC Case Buena Vista Estates & Rockology Limited LLC

Please do NOT support a mining zone on La Bajada Mesa because this is part of the historic landmark that the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance (NMHPA) has recognized as one of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places."

In order to mine, they need water, largely to control the dust and air pollution that a strip mine would create.

The mining application proposes to use almost a million gallons of our increasingly scarce water per year for 25-years, while destroying an iconic landmark and diminishing the quality of life for all county residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lilit Margaryan
A. Kachatryan 1/4, app.38
Yerevan, None +374